

**Folder 17:
Swogger,
Alfred D.
(Metlakatla)
1941-1943**

Klawock, Alaska
Jan. 8th 1941

Dear friends;

The two Church Sessions of Kake and Klawock met a a joint session meeting recently. Their discussion resulted in a resolution affecting our Lay-workers. The two Sessions adopted unanimously the Resolution to be presented at the meeting of the Presbytery in Haines.

They are presenting this resolution to you in a circular letter. They believe that this is a step forward for our people. It is their hope that after you as sessions and congregations have seriously discussed this resolution that you will send your delegates to Presbytery to register your conclusions.

RESOLUTION.

Whereas, our Alaska Presbytery has Layworkers, commissioned by the Board of National Missions under the present system and,

Whereas, it is the contention of the members of our Church, that, we are not, at the present time ready to have (all our) Church Community Churches supplemented by the employment of Ordained Ministers, and

Whereas our present Lay-workers do not have authority for the Reception of members, or to preside over a Session Meeting, or to call a Congregational Meeting for the Annual business, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Presbytery of Alaska meeting in Haines Alaska, that it grant the above power to Commissioned Layworkers in Active Service, with the consent of the Secretary of the Alaska Division of the Board of National Missions.

Sincerely yours,
Paul E. Whiteside.

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

From

Church

Date

Jan. 10 1941.

NOTE—This quarterly news letter is to be written in addition to all other reports. Use it for reporting the outstanding experience or experiences during the past three months in your church.

Christmas season is past, and things are becoming a bit more normal at last. The season has been a good one, and there did not seem to be any lack of money, though the fishing season was not so good this year as in past years.

The first event was "White Christmas" observed Dec. 2. The reason for observing it so early was that the gifts brought in might be sent up to the Haines House and reach there in time for Christmas.

White Christmas has been accepted as a time for making a collection of gifts for the children in the Haines House. It has become almost a community affair, perhaps, because we have a number of children there, and others have been there in the past. The response this year was very splendid indeed. Three large boxes well packed were sent up, to bring happiness to those children. The occasion served two purposes: it occasioned joy to the children, many of them homeless; and it brings joy to the givers.

Christmas week was a busy time as usual. Christmas Eve the church choir went out caroling. Then in the morning, at 11:00 o'clock was the church service, about 85 were present, in spite of many being out caroling nearly all night.

In the evening our Choir rendered the Cantata, "The Chimes of Christmas". It was a beautiful piece, and an appreciative audience of 225 enjoyed it.

The following Friday evening the Annual Congregational Meeting was held. The yearly reports were given, and then the election of new officers for the coming year was held. Much joy is felt over the results of the election of new Elders. Of the three former Elders who were voted out, two were bad for drinking. The three new ones are all free of that habit.

over

I am very much pleased with the election, I hope next year we may have other victories in other departments.

Last Sunday Communion Service was held in the morning; in the evening was the ordination of the two new Elders, which was a very impressive Service; and the installation of new officers.

Following the evening Service, the congregation joined with one of the older Elders in enjoying coffee & sandwiches in the C.E. room. The year had brought its troubles, but the prospect was so much brighter now at the close of the year, that he and his wife wanted the people of the Church to join with them in their rejoicing.

Up until a few weeks ago the Sunday School met at 3:00 P.M.; C.E. 4:00 P.M.; and choir following R.E. I had proposed to the C.E. Executive, that the young married people meet with me Wed. eve, for Bible study. That did not meet the approval of some. The suggestion was made that instead of having S.S. & C.E. they be combined, & the C.E. group study the Sunday School lesson.

The plan has its advantages. There are also disadvantages, and time only will tell what will be best. For the present we will hope the arrangement will be most fruitful.

We still have our old enemy to fight, which seems to be holding his own, in spite of all we can do. That enemy is drunk, and he is a bad one.

Pray for us that new methods of warfare may be devised to fight this tyrant more successfully in the future.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Another Christmas season has gone into history, and now we are getting our bearings for the New Year just ahead. As we can't help but wonder what is in store for the Nations of the world in this New Year, so the question raises its head on the horizon, what will the Church do during this coming year? I, as Shepherd, am resolved not to ~~take~~ ^{take} too much time a way in fruitless wondering, but shall try to improve every moment in useful and fruitful endeavor for the Kingdom, and its King.

We were happy to add to our Church Roll the names of a family which came over from B.C., just recently. The man was an Elder on the other side, and has been showing up very splendidly, in Religious activities since coming here 3 months ago. His estimation in the minds of our people was such that they were ready to elect him Elder here.

We had Service Christmas morning at 11:00. In the evening, our choir rendered the cantata "The Chimes of The Holy Night", to a large and appreciative audience. The following Fri. evening we held our Annual Congregational Meeting, and election of officers. The meeting was well attended, and much interest was manifested. The things that pleased me very much was, that two Elders who were and are drinkers, were dropped from the Session, and the ones elected in their places are clean men, so far as drink is concerned. The newly elected Deacons and Elders are manifesting much interest in the Church already, and I trust I can keep the interest warm throughout the year.

Just now our town is suffering from an epidemic of "Flu", and so there is not much activity on the go, especially among the children. The School is closed, and the Doctor requested that we do not have Sunday School or evening Service, last Sunday. We did, however, have Service in the morning, ~~and~~ a meeting of the Session in the P.M. Following immediately after the installation of the new officers, the different groups meet and re-organize for the New Year. The Elders thought, as there was no Church in the evening, that would be a good time to meet; and things worked out very nicely. Following our nearly 3 hour meeting, Mrs Swogger served lunch to the men, and so we sent them home happy.

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METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Jan .20 1941.

Rev. Everett B. King D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

The stores in Ketchikan are advertising paints now-a-days and frequently reminding their listeners that it is time to be thinking about dressing up their homes with a coat of fresh paint.

Perhaps you noticed, when you were in Metlakatla, that the Church needed paint. The tourist will be visiting our village this summer, and we don't want any Presbyterian to go away from here, feeling ashamed of a Presbyterian Church, because of a lack of paint.

Our people have been at heavy expense during the past two years, on account of having to re-roof the Church, and repair the front entrance. ^{of the Church} The whole expense amounted to \$309.40. They want to refinish the inside this summer, and also secure a new heating system. These items are besides the regularly recurring expenses.

Because of the above projects, I see no hope of getting the people to attempt the raising of money for outside painting this year, but the building needs paint, so much.

I feel quite sure I can get the men to do the work, if only the paint can be secured. Can you help us in this much needed enterprise? I figure it will cost \$75.00 to paint the entire Church on the outside.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

January 31, 1941

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla
Alaska

Dear Swogger:

I am afraid that it will not be possible to grant you the money needed for paint to take care of the church. With our limited funds it is necessary that we make careful distribution of it. I wish there was some way that your own people might raise the money and paint the building. If your people can provide half, I shall do my best to find you the other half.

Cordially yours,

EBK:B

ALASKA

NARRATIVE REPORT

month

OTHERS;—This ~~week~~ a group from the Church made a trip to the village of Saxman, to carry the gospel to those people. There were about thirty five in the party, including the Church orchestra, band, choir and Elders. It made a very impressive demonstration as the boat pulled away from the dock, with the band playing, and the others singing some of the gospel songs. The Pastor went down to the dock, and had prayer with them before they pulled away.

The order of the day was reported to me in detail as follows; the boat arrived at Saxman about eleven o'clock. They marched up to the town from the dock, led by the band. In front of the hall where the Services were to be held, they paused for prayer before entering. The morning service was in English, and all the people understood English well enough, so an interpreter was not necessary. The Saxman people had prepared an elaborate meal for them which was served in a nearby hall. The afternoon meeting was in Tsimshian. The Saxman people are Thlingets, and for the sake of some of the older people, the service had to be interpreted. A second meal was prepared for 5:30 P.M. Some of our ladies remarked to me what splendid meals the Saxman people prepared.

The evening service was more impressive. The Tsimshian was again used, and interpreted into Thlinget. The interpreting was done by two brothers, the one living in Saxman interpreted into Tsimshian; the other brother lives in Metlakatla interpreted into Thlinget. Believe it or not; in a little village of 50 people, in a simple gospel service, three languages had to be used, in order that all might hear with understanding. The evening was concluded with testimonies. It was at this time that 15 persons came forward and vowed that they would endeavor from that time forth to live Christian lives. These 15 were not all from Saxman; two were from here, and some two or three from Ketchikan. And so all voted the day quite worth while, and that the trip had been abundantly blessed.

It is the custom for the folks at home to wait up, and welcome the travelers home, give them lunch, and hear brief reports of the day's happenings. This a few of us did, and when all was over, and the Missionary was about to retire, the noisy clock announced the hour of five A.M.

More to follow next month. After my years in Alaska, I am convinced that these experiences mean much to the Native people, in the deepening of their better lives.

I almost forgot to mention the Sunday School Teacher's study class, which meets each Wednesday evening after prayer meeting. There is usually an attendance of 8, and much interest is manifested in the studies. The result is being manifested in the Sunday School, in the manner of the presentation of the lessons.

February 25, 1941

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Swogger:

The surveys of the Alaskan fields are coming in. I am sorry that there was a mix-up between you and our friend Bromley. It seems that both of you men sent out the same request but I dare say that this double emphasis will not hurt any. I shall wait ~~until~~ until a little later and check on the number of reports I have received and then will want you to follow up with the others.

Cordially yours,

EDK:B

ALASKA

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STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWIGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Feb. 28, 1941.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York. N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Just a bit of news I would like to give you while it is fresh. I hope you will recall the Benson family, which you met last year at Presbytery. He is the owner of the boat "Theo" which we used in traveling to Presbytery. Their daughter was a Junior in Sitka last year, and the mother is the daughter of Rev. Marsden.

At that time, Ted Benson, the husband and father was not a member of the Church, though I had tried to get him to join. One or more of your messages touched him, and just before Easter I approached him again, about joining with the family. He accepted the invitation, and came in on Easter morning. He showed a growing interest in the Church, which made me very happy.

At the Congregational Meeting in Dec. he was elected Elder, and accepted the office promising to do his best. After being elected, he took hold of the work, and was most generous in his offers to help in the improvement of the Church building.

A few days ago another Elder, much older man, and who is accustomed to drink, too much, as well as do other things unbecoming a Christian, differed with Benson about some city matters. He became very angry and made some scandalous accusations against Benson. Benson did the human thing, and demanded an apology, or answer the accusations in court. I went to the older man and talked with him, telling him that an apology was necessary. Finally he promised he would do so. I had another Elder with me when I called them to the house to straighten out the matter. The man apologized; Ted forgave him, and they shook hands, and parted friends. Knowing both men as I do, I feel it was a severe test for the young man, and that he came through nobly.

Missionary work is still necessary, and it is very much worth while.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swigger

March 8, 1941

Rev. Mr. Alfred D. Swogger
Metlakatla
Alaska

Dear Swogger:

Thank you for sending me that fresh news story about the Benson Family. I do remember the family very well and am rejoicing in my heart that the Christ has found a place in Mr. Benson's heart. The story was most interesting.

Cordially yours,

EBK:B

ALASKA

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REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Mar 11, 1941.

Rev, Everett B. King, D.D.

156 Fifth Ave.

New York City, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Just while the incident is fresh in mind, I want to give it you.

In our Elders -Deacons meeting a week ago, it was voted to call a Congregational Meeting to set before the people the financial needs of the Church, and the peoples responsibility in meeting that need. Following the evening Service of Mar. 9th, at which time I preached a strong sermon on Stewardship, the people gathered in the C.E. Hall for the meeting. I made brief remarks on the purpose of the meeting, and then turned it over to the Elder. He gave a strong and convincing talk on the subject of Stewardship, and then called on others to speak briefly.

The people re-affirmed their promise to pay the \$150.00 to the Boards. That was fine, but I did not feel satisfied to let it go at that, but told the Leader I thought they should make up what they were back of the present year. He hesitated just a moment, and then put the question to them, asking how many were ready to contribute toward the present deficit. 49 persons came forward with their money, and signed the paper. \$63.00 was collected to go toward the present year's budget, which puts us over the top., with what I had collected before. The spirit of the whole meeting was very splendid. This is the first canvass of this character in the history of the Church, and I feel it was a success.

a total of 80 persons have contributed during this present year.
It was also voted at the meeting, to try the envelope system next year.

I am busy in preparation for Presbytery, and will be reminded many times, during the next few days, of the blessings which were ours last year, when you were with us at Sitka, and brought such inspiring messages. Trust we may have you again in the near future.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

NARRATIVE REPORT

Last month a group of workers going to Paxman was reported: the following Sunday, or Mar 16th a return visit was made by the Saxman people. About thirty came over and worshiped with our people. The fellowship was very splendid, and the people parted happy, about 11:30 P.M.

Feb. 23d twelve persons went with me to Kasaan for the day. We left early in the morning, 6:00 A.M. and reached there in time for morning worship. The ladies of the Church prepared lunch for the party. The morning Service was poorly attended as the ladies were busy preparing lunch. The evening worship was well attended, and a very splendid spirit was manifested. The people of Kasaan were very happy to have us come over, and urged us to come again; hoping we might be able to return sometime during April.

A week ago we called a Congregational meeting, and I had the Elders, or rather one of them explain the financial proposition of the Church, and point out to the people their responsibility as Stewards. Again the people showed a good spirit, and expressed their readiness to assume their responsibility for next year. Then I had the Leader point out to them, that they had fallen short on this year's pledge, and that I thought they should do something about that. He put the proposition to them, and asked as many as would to contribute there. the result was that they gave in \$63.00, which brought the Church out of the red, and over the top.

A short time before we had appointed a committee to devise some means for raising money for the "Princeton-Hall" fund. Last Fri. night a box sociable was given and \$64.00 was raised for the new boat. We already have over \$100.00 raised, and are trying to raise more.

And so we labor, and trust that there is at least some growth in Spiritual life among the people.

March 19, 1941

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Brother Swogger:

Thank you for sharing with me the fine experience at the congregational meeting. Please express to your members the appreciation of our Board of National Missions together with my own personal appreciation for this fine expression of loyalty. It is not small thing to note that eighty people in your congregation have made a contribution during the present year. I shall remember you and the other men in prayer during the meeting of Presbytery. My heart will be there.

Cordially yours,

EBK:B

ALASKA

April 1, 1941

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Swogger:

I was very much interested in the narrative report of the visit to Saxman. I shall appreciate it very much if you will re-write this report and give me more detailed information about the visit. I think these visits are very unique in the program of the work in Alaska.

I trust you have a splendid meeting of Presbytery.

Cordially yours,

EBK:B

ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. April 14, 1941.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Following is an account of the Saxman trip, as I recall the details.

The Thlinget people of Saxman and people from Metlakatla have inter-married in very many cases, until now there is a very strong tie between the two communities. The Saxman community is very unfortunate in being so close to Ketchikan, where liquor is so easily secured. Drunkenness is very common there, in Saxman, and some of the Elders of our Church are very desirous of making at least an Annual trip to Saxman, to bring the Gospel Message, and help counteract the evil influences.

Such a trip was made last February 9th. A bout 35 persons including members from Band, the Church Orchestra, Choir, Deacons, and Elders, and other Church members went over on the Gospel Mission. Their Pastor went down to the boat and had prayer with the group before sailing time. The day was nice, and all were out on the deck as the boat pulled away at 9 O'clock. The band was playing and the people were singing some of the good old time revival hymns. As we stood on the dock and watched them sail away, and joined our voices with theirs in sacred song, it was a sight, and an experience long to be remembered. Here was a group of people, some of the older ones having been born in heathen homes, going forth to carry the Gospel of Redemption to others, which gospel had transformed their lives.

As the boat approached Saxman the band played, and the people again lifted their voices in hymns of praise. The Saxman people down at the shore to meet them, and conduct them to the place of meeting. Before entering the place of worship, all paused for prayer of thanksgiving and intercession.

Three Services were conducted during the day, at 11 A.M.; 3 P.M. and again at 7:30. Meals were served by the Saxman people, at 12:30; at 5:30. Some of our ladies were most enthusiastic about the wonderful meals served, and the nice way everything was arranged. Because some of the older people from Saxman could not understand Tsimshian, and some of the ones from Metlakatla could not understand Thlinget, interpreters were used. Two Williams brothers, Thlinhets, the one an Elder in the Saxman Church, and the other an Elder in the Metlakatla acted as interpreters. (We boast just a little about the Metlakatla Elder; though not educated beyond the Grades, he can use 5 languages.) The evening meeting was Evangelistic in nature, followed by a period of testimonies. Fifteen persons came forward for confessions, and pledged their intentions to live renewed Christian lives from that time forth. The day was one of great encouragement for all in attendance. Much encouragement was given to the people of Saxman in their Christian struggle; much joy and satisfaction was experienced by our people. All believe the success of the trip was in direct answer to prayer.

A few of us at the home base waited to welcome the party home. A lunch was served to all present, and then brief reports were given by a few of the Leaders, giving a few of their experiences, and accounts of their successes. When all was over, and the weary Missionary was ready to retire, 'Little Ben' struck the hour of 5. "And so we preach, and so they believe."

EASTER JOYS: "The day was cold and dark, and dreary; it rained and the wind was never weary," but the manifestation of the Spirit's presence and power was abundant. The first order of the day was the Salvation Army's Annual Easter march at 4 A.M. At six thirty the two Churches joined in a Sunrise Service. The Duncan Church had invited us to worship with them at that Service, and be their guests at a breakfast following the Worship Service. The two choirs joined forces, and the two ministers took part in the program. There was a very splendid spirit manifested during the entire day.

This year the Sunday School has been fortunate in securing some new teachers, which has added much to the efficiency of the school. This Easter others from the Church manifested an interest in the School, and so added to the effectiveness of the Easter arrangements.

In the evening the choir rendered the cantata "Cross and Crown". A number of people were out of town, and the other Church, Duncan, was also rendering a cantata. It was feared the attendance might be small. Instead there were nearly 180 in attendance at the service. All comments were favorable, and justly so, for the choir did splendid.

I should say, regarding the early morning service, that it is the custom for each Church to have charge of the Sunrise Service alternate years. So visit us next Easter, and worship with the Presbyterians at the early service.

And so another Easter came to a close, and I am sure it left our community a little better because of the worship.

Signed by a Witness,

Alfred Swonger

Metlakatla, Alaska. April 15, 1941.

Dear Dr. King:

Yes we had a very good meeting of Presbytery, and I feel that the out look is splendid for better things ahead. May I say just here, that I think the new blood in the Presbytery is very promising. If you should ask me which man I like best, - well! you didn't ask me so---. It will be a splendid acquisition to the Presbytery, when we can have another Walter Soboleff. He is a man of zeal, ability, and devotion.

Both boats reported good trips. No severe and rough weather this year as is sometimes encountered.

Mr. Yaw is still waiting for his boat allowance. Mr. Bromley reported to me that the New York office would take care of the Presbytery travel expense this year, and so I am still waiting to hear from the Treasurer, to pay the \$375.00 for the two boats.

In today's mail I received a letter from Dr. Bayless of the American Bible Society announcing his intention of being in Alaska this summer, sailing from Seattle July 3d. He says he is traveling in company with Bishop Baxter of the Methodist Church, and Dr. E. J. Kolstedt who is a trustee of the Duncan Estate. A few days ago Rev. Schmidt of the Duncan Church told me that Bishop Baxter is coming up in July, and will confer the degree of Doctor on him. He didn't express great interest in the matter when talking with me. One of the teachers of the Public School told me that Rev. Schmidt purchased 200 feet of colored film and asked him to take a goodly amount of movies of the Church doings during Sunday, especially of the Sunrise Service, when the larger group is present.

I just thought the above mentioned events past and to come might be of interest to you.

I shall send you a copy of the digest of Presbytery Minutes so soon as I can get them written up.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger
Alfred D. Swogger

P.S. Mr. Wm. Paul who rented the house in Juneau, known as the Waggoner house has paid only one month's rent; for November. I wrote Mr. Glasse, asking if he would contact the Pauls, and he replied, "as their minister he thought it would be less embarrassing if some one else would speak to them." On our way to Presbytery, I met him, Mr. Paul, and he promised to try and pay me on the return trip. I did not contact him returning, and as yet have not heard from him.

Yours,

A.D.S.

NARRATIVE REPORT

I feel I would be justified in dubbing this report, or rather the time included in this, a Presbytery report. I was busy before going to Presbytery, with details in preparation for the meeting; since coming back, I have spent much time in getting the necessary things attended to.

Easter, this year, was, I feel, rich in spiritual experiences. As the Presbyterians had the Sunrise Service last year, the Duncan Church issued the invitation this year, and invited the choir to joining them in the music, and the Pastor to have part in the worship service. A community breakfast followed the Worship Service, and then to get home and ready for the 11 o'clock Service. Following that came the Sunday School at 3 P.M. and the treat for the children, which numbered nearly 125 that day. For our own Church, the big event was the cantata by the choir at 7:30 P.M. The choir rendered the cantata, "Cross and Crown", to an audience of about 175. Though the piece was difficult, it was well rendered, as was witnessed by the many favorable comments from the visitors,

I almost forgot to mention the splendid Service we had Good Friday. The attendance was good, as was the attention and manifest interest.

Easter week was a bit saddened by a bad fire, on Mon. 7th. The Lang house, people who are dependables in C.E. and Choir work, was set afire by some unknown means. It happened in the morning about 9:30, and before Mrs. Lang had gotten up. The wind was strong, and the fire had gotten a good start before she awoke. She rushed into another room to look after her small boy, and before she got back to her own room, and out again, she became trapped upstairs.

She rushed through the fire to a front window, but her clothes caught fire, and she was very badly burned. They took her to the hospital at once, and she is suffering much from the severe burns.

The house was saved, though the upstairs was badly charred. Most of the furniture was saved, but clothing and bedding was spoiled by smoke and water. Due to the prompt and efficient work of the volunteer fire fighters,, the damage was kept to a minimum.

And so we serve in the various ways in these little communities, just trying to be a friend to man.

ALASKA

April 29, 1941

Rev. Mr. Alfred Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

Thank you for your interesting report of the visit to Kasaan. I was impressed with the money that you are raising for the Princeton-Hall. I suggest that you send this money in to us so that your church can receive credit.

Cordially yours,

EBK:B

May 15, 1941.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Though we are off the beaten track, and away from the noise and confusion of the city, still we feel the rebound of the war confusion.

Some fifty of our boys are working at the Air Field just across the hill from the town, and only get home for Sat. night and Sunday morning. Too, a number of our boats are out trolling this summer, so that the population is very much depleted at this time.

We do hear the sound of the blasting at the quarry, where the rock is being prepared for the run-ways, and when a few blasts each day and night make such a disturbance, what must it be like, when tons of bombs are bursting all about, demolishing buildings, around and above.

But why mention all this about the war and confusion? it is becoming so common, and not a bit conducive to Christian upbuilding, or the things for which the Church stands. And what to do about it all? Well, we are just continuing to carry on, and keep the lights burning, trying to make the way clear for any weary traveler who may be seeking for help or encouragement.

Easter passed by without any ingathering, but the Missionary is happy to report that a harvest was gathered in the following Sunday. Twelve of our young people were taken in by Profession from the Sunday School. The reason for holding them over after Easter, was that all were not able to answer the questions it was felt they should be able to answer.

On the evening of April 20th, our people enjoyed listening to the Presbyterian choir of Ketchikan, render its Easter cantata. They came over in the afternoon, and our women prepared supper for them. At the close of the evening Service refreshments were served to them and their many friends in Metlakatla, and a social evening was enjoyed by both groups. And so the Day was in very truth a day of worship and fellowship, for all enjoyed the meeting together so much.

ALASKA

NARRATIVE REPORT

I am learning new lessons during these days. Am learning to sympathize with the unmarried ministers, especially the ones who live in their own houses. Mrs. Swogger has been gone to be with her father, a month now. With the house work, always keeping it in order for callers at any time; taking care of the flowers in the house, the garden and lawn; keeping up my pastoral work; doing the Stated Clerk's work,--well! I find time does not drag.

May 17th I was working in the garden for a little time during the evening, when I was called to go to the bedside of a young man, who was dying of T.B. I stayed with him for three hours, reading to him and praying with and for him. I came away at 9:00 to be my own cook, and housekeeper. At 11:45 P.M. the "Theo" came in with the students from Sitka. I wanted to be on hand to welcome them, so went down to the dock. On my way home I stopped at the Gordon home to see the boy again. I remained an hour, and then home to complete preparations for the Sunday morning Services.

Sunday morning after seeing that the Church was comfortable for the Worship Service, I again went to see the boy.

The week passed with all its round of duties, until Friday, when I was to give the Commencement address for the Graduating Class at the school. The morning I was to give the Commencement Address, I was called at 5:15, asking me to go down and have prayer with the family, that the boy had passed away. Following the school program, ~~very~~ I went to the home for the customary prayer service. The funeral was set for Sunday, so that I had the two Church Services besides the funeral, and had to walk nearly 2 miles to the burying place.

I have seen animals struggle when death was near, and observed how desperate they became; but this was my first experience with a life, whose soul was in danger of being lost, in seeking a way of escape. And I am happy in the belief that By God's grace I was able to help him find his Lord before he crossed the river. It was an experience that will long remain in memory, but not one to be oft mentioned.

Now that the Government is becoming so particular about people having proper identifications for their citizenship, and these older people having been born in Canada, many of the younger people are being required to produce some evidence that they were born in U.S.A. And so many are coming to me for Baptismal Certificates; and for some of them I have to go through the records a number of times to find the proper entries. Just something else to fill in the time.

Our Vacation Bible School started yesterday, and that is taking all the time I can possibly give it. We do have the encouragement that the start was very good yesterday, and are hoping that more may come.

A troop of Boys Scouts has been organized in town, under the leadership of Rev. Schmidt. The boys are going to camp this week, and next Sunday the families and friends of the boys are asked to visit the camp, and worship with them. I have been asked to take that Service in the morning. We plan to return home in time for the evening Service.

And so life goes round and round in the little community, and it is the sincere hope of the Missionary that at least in something, or some contact, he has been able to leave the community a little better because he lived. Won't you pray for him!!!

NARRATIVE REPORT

And so the months pass, and the calls for service are as varied as the weather.

The trip to the Scout camp was a very profitable one. About one hundred and twenty five persons went out from the town. The day was beautiful, and the service in the camp was very impressive. All went well during the time the boys were out, and no incidents occurred.

The vacation Bible School closed the 28th of June, with a very good enrollment. The two churches cooperated in the school, and so we were able to draw teachers from both Sunday Schools. The children showed interest in the work, and were very regular in attendance. In the two divisions there were 105 enrolled.

The time of the Missionary has been taken up with visiting the sick, marrying the young people, baptizing the babies, burying the dead, all of which came within this present month.

Last Saturday we had a Church wedding, and wedding supper following. After that I called on two of our young people who had just returned from the hospital. I had hardly reached home, when I received a call from the town nurse, asking that I come to the house to baptize a young baby.

Now, the town is in the summer rush of the fishing season. Most every one is busy, and the ones who are not hope they may be very soon.

And so the Missionary keeps his house open by the side of the road, where the many people go by, hoping and praying that he may bring a ray of sunshine and hope to some life, as the days go by.

ALASKA

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska

Aug .8, 1941.

The Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I wish first of all, to thank you for "Welcome to Alaska" sent me for use in the work here. I have used them when the few boats came in here on their way to Alaska, and people seem very much pleased to get them. They are a very attractive, and informing tracts.

The Rev. Willis R. Booth has told us that, "Dr. Everett B. King, Dr. Herbert B. Smith, and Mr. Hall are to be in Sitka for the dedication of the "Princeton -Hall" Sept .21st. We, the Moderator and Stated Clerk, thought it would be well to have the Fall meeting of Presbytery at Sitka during that time, so that the men of the Presbytery might catch some inspiration from ~~the~~ meeting such leaders of our Church.

It is very necessary to hold a Fall Meeting of Presbytery to take care of the Northern Light Church situation, due to Rev. Mr. Glasse's leaving.

With so few men in the Presbytery now, it is going to make it very expensive for the remaining Ministers, if the cost of chartering a boat or boats for the trip is Pro-rated among the men..

Is it possible to get some aid from the Board for this meeting, in as much as we will have to secure at least one boat for the trip? Any help would be very greatly appreciated.

How happy we will be when the "Princeton-Hall" is ready for such trips, and we can be assured of comfortable travel.

Very cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

Alfred D. Swogger

*Answered 8/16/41 - offered \$100 to help
in expenses -
E.B.K.*

ALASKA

NA RRATIVE REPORT

A.D.Swogger

August 18,1941

Swiftly the days are passing,so swiftly that I scarcely take account of the weeks; only of the months. No the time does not drag; anything but.

No one need say to me that the summer season is without interest or anything to occupy the time. The past month has been very fully occupied. Rev. Schmidt, Minsiter of the Duncan Church left July 18th for a two week trip to the North.The week following there was a death in his group,and I was called upon to officiate,and in the Duncan Church. Aug .1st went to Ketchikan,to meet Rev.Bert Bingle and have a conference with him. August 9th Mrs.Violet Kidley died of heart failure following birth of a baby girl. She had been the pionist in the Church for a number of years; one we always depended on for the Christmas and Easter music,especially. Her husband was an Elder in the Church, and director of the Choir; president of the town band,and a leader in other town affairs. The wife's sudden death was a great shock to the whole community. On the 12th ,report came to town that two of the young men who had been working at the Air-base were drowned. Searc was made for the bodies,but as yet no trace of the bodies has been found.

On the 13th a young woman of our Church,whose wedding took place in the Church las Dec.and was an affair of no little proportions,died of T.B. With all the people who are able to work,being employed in the Cannery ,these happenings meant much extra work for the Missionary. Only one who has spent a summer in a fishing village,can appreciate what all this means,and how many little details have to be looked after by the Missionary.

But life here is not without its diversions. The other morning a call-boy came and said that the Cannery needed all extra men for longshoring. The Missionary wished to where he was needed,and so presented himself,and to the surprise of many was accepted ,as a worthwhile longshorman.

The weather ,this summer has been most unusual. More sunshine than has been experienced here during the past 9 years,at least,and the indications are that there is much more to come.

In spite of the bright sunshine,the fishing se son has been good, and prices higher than at any previous time. With work for every one who is able to work,and good wages,prospect, for the young people getting back to school this fall is good.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The life of the Missionary is as varied as the life of the community in which he labors, at least so it is in this particular place. There are times when the question throngs itself before me, 'am I doing Missionary work, or am I a community servant?' Then I turn to the New Testament, and find that much of our Lord's time while on earth was spent in going about doing good, and ministering to the physical needs of others. Then it is I return to my work uncomplainingly, and try to minister as I believe My Lord would have me, and joy comes again.

I do not have to look about me for work at any time; it presents its self from many sources. Saturday night, the Missionary is busy dressing up his work for the Sunday, when suddenly the door-bell rings. The caller, a young man, asks if I am on the Selective Service Board; I tell him I am, and so he wants me to help him with his questionnaire. So he can't come back, for the time has elapsed. He has been out fishing and did not receive the letter until this evening.

Another evening the Missionary is about to retire when the bell rings, and a request has come from the nurse that a young baby is very sick, and they want me to go and baptize it. Details have to be arranged for children, who should be sent to the Sanatorium, and as there is no Dr. here, the Missionary should look after his flock. Statements come from the Haines House, asking the Missionary to be a real friend to the home, and help in making the collections of fees from the parents or guardians. Request come in for children from broken homes to be sent to Haines House. The Missionary is ever the go-between.

And now the time has come for the students to prepare for S.J.S. As there is no Mission boat ready for transporting them, some other arrangements will have to be made. Where to get a boat at this season of the year; one which will have adequate accommodations, and a trusty skipper to over to it. The task is not an easy one, but it can be done, and finally is arranged, and after three days word comes that the boat arrived safely.

Amidst all the confusion of getting the students ready for the journey; persuading some who did not want to return, that they should do so, or be homeless and worse; Dr. Everett B. King drops from the air, for the much anticipated visit. Just the day before I had announced from the pulpit that Dr. King would probably be with us the following Sunday, when lo, he comes six days early. All appreciated his visit very much, and hope that he will come again at a more auspicious season.

In the midst of all the foregoing, is the thought that the Fall meeting of Presbytery is coming very soon, and many details have to be arranged for in anticipation of the Presbytery.

No, I am not for one moment even so much as intimating a complaint; just merely trying to show forth reason for my existence, just in this particular place in ALASKA. Happy!!, sure I am happy in the Service of the KING.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The Missionary was away from the Station from Sept .17-to 26th on account of Presbytery meeting, and the dedication of the new boat. As the S.J/S. left us at Wrangell, had to wait there two days for a boat,. However did reach home in time for the following Sunday Service.

Before going to Presbytery ,I had a most trying experience. One of the Elders of the Church who is given to much drinking, went beyond the point of endurance, and after quarreling with the family, became so unreasonable th t his family threatened to move out, and in fact did move much furniture onto the porch. I went to the family and urged them to go slow, promising to talk with the father and husband. After being kept away from his home, family, grand children for two days, he begged to be allowed to go back/ After a long talk with him, showing him his great mistake, he promised to give up drink and behave himself. The following evening, I arranged for us to meet with the family, and try to adjust matters. That night the wife and daughter pointed out to the Elder what a hell he had been making for them, and warned him that he had reached the limit, that another break such as the last one and they would all leave him. He there confessed his wrong, asked forgiveness, and promised to do better in the future.

That happened a month ago, and he seems to be behaving himself.

If only he would give up the drink habit completely, how much it would mean to the community, for he could be such a leader among his people. All we c n do is to live hopefully and pray.

The Church activities ~~for the Church are~~ getting under way again. The Women's Missionary Society had its opening meeting evening of the 13th. There was a good attendance, and a fine spirit was manifested on the part of all present.

The Officers of the choir had a meeting at the manse, and made plans for the early getting together of the choir for its weekly practice. More about that later.

And so another season is opening, and we sincerely hope and pray that it may be a much better one than any of the past.

PRAY FOR US IN THIS T.B. INFESTED COMMUNITY.

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska

October 27, 1941.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Enclosed you will find a check from Wm Paul for rent for Juneau house up to November 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Benson are on their way East, and will probably be in New York early in November. If Dr. Wilson or Dr. Morse wish to know more about the Metlakatla situation, I hope you will introduce Mrs. Benson to either or both, and let them question her. She is ready to talk to any one about the matter, and give her reasons for maintaining a Presbyterian Church in Metlakatla.

I am enclosing two quotations from Dr. Somerndike's letters in order to let you have his reaction to Dr. Kohlstedt's statement about not wanting to come in here. You may recall that Mr. Schmidt said that Dr. Kohlstedt laterally leaned over backward in his affirmation, that he had not ambitions for the Methodist Church having a place in Metlakatla.

About the "Apostle to Alaska", I inquired from Frank W. Williams, and he reported no trace of the book. I wrote to Sitka and asked Mr. Yaw to inquire from the Metlakatla young people, thinking that some one of them might have picked up the book, and when questioned, would turn it in. We regret very much losing the book, not for the money value, but because it is out of print, and I would not know where to look for another copy. We will still hope that the book may be found.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

November 6, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Swogger:

I received a telegram from the Benson stating that they were on their way to Mayo Brothers for medical treatment. I immediately sent an airmail letter to our missionary there. I sincerely hope that he will make the contact and give them all the attention that is needed. I note what you say relative to the opportunity to talk to Dr. Wilson and Dr. Morse. I shall certainly avail myself of this privilege if the opportunity presents itself.

Thanks for sending me the copy of the letter from Dr. Somerndike. That is quite illuminating.

I also appreciate the check from William Paul covering the house rent up to November 1st. According to our agreement the collection of the rent and the management of the house will be in the hands of Paul Prouty.

I do not know how to say how sorry I am about the book "Apostle to Alaska". If you do not find it, please let me know.

Cordially yours

EBK:McE

ALASKA

NARRATIVE REPORT

Now that the long evenings are with us again, the activities centering around the Church are getting under way.

The Womens Society was the first to come together, and take up their duties again, in preparation for the winters activities. A goodly number turned out, and a very splendid spirit was manifested on the part of all present.

Then came the choir's first assembly. The night was stormy as on only it can be here in Southern Alaska, so Mrs Swogger thought it would be well to warm the people up for the homeward trek, and light refreshments were served at the close of the practice. The following week a birthday surprise part was put on by the choir for one of the faithful members; and it was a real surprise. This party was put on at the close of the Thursday evening practice, and a good time was had by all.

The C.F. too, had its time of revival, which has yet much to do to show itself worthy of the great name it used to advertise under. We have been trying to clean up the points and get the distributor adjusted, so that the machine will move along as it should. Like many another machine, it takes time and patients, but the Pastor is still hopeful.

The Elders too, had their time and a profitable one it was, if the writer is to judge from visible signs. Here again time and patients are required, but after frequent experiences, it is felt ~~that~~ ^{that} all will be well in the end.

The Pastors wife had her Star group of girls in last week, and they took hold of the work with real enthusiasm, and an eagerness to get under way again.

The Government School put on an Armistice ^{Day} program in the school auditorium, to which the public was invited. About 150 were present, including of course the school children, and visitors. The writer was the speaker of the day, and had a very attentive audience.

A week ago we varied the ^{Sunday} evening Worship Service ~~by~~ by singing a number of familiar songs. The Pastor gave a brief account of the occasion of the writing of the hymn, or something about the author, thus acquainting the people better with some of our Hymns which we all have learned to love. All seemed to appreciate the change of order very much.

On the occasion of the coming together of all of the Star group, the ~~Pastor's~~ Pastor's wife served refreshments to the attendants. The comfort of a persons heart is dependent on the stomach, and to apply on the Mission field as elsewhere.

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska

Dec. 22, 1941.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

And so we are at war with Japan! And do we know it here in Metlakatla. Two days after the onslaught by Japan, a Defense Council was formed, including members of the City Council, the two Government men, and the two Ministers. Communications were taken up with the Army Chiefs at the Airbase, and an immediate blackout was urged. The order was put into effect at once, and there was some scurrying about by many persons, to effect a proper blackout.

Mr. Schmidt, being an army man, was appointed commander to see that the blackout was carried out. Also a system of guards was arranged for, to guard the docks, the power house, and power line, and to see that the citizens obeyed all rules.

Four Red-cross units were organized, and properly equipped with every thing to take care of any possible emergency, in case of air-raid. A practice answer to an air-raid signal was carried out the other night, and the results were very gratifying indeed. I can not say that every one is cooperating 100%, but considering the class of people we have to train, and their excessive freedom up to present time, they really do well.

No boat or person is allowed to go to Ketchikan, without a permit, and a good and sufficient reason must be given.

The side of the island on which the Air-base is located is guarded by a succession of machine-gun nests, and the waters around the entire island, are closed to strange boats for a mile out from the shore.

About 50 of the men from here are working on the air-base construction. They tell me that no man can quit his job, except on account of sickness. Too, the working men are being drilled in what to do in case of an air-raid.

We are carrying out the Church activities back of darkened windows, and as much as possible, avoiding large gatherings in one place. Christmas lights will be seen only in the homes, not from the streets as at other times.

Last evening we had a Memorial Service for Alaska's first man to pay the supreme penalty in this war. A young man from Ketchikan, ensign Irvin Thompson, who graduated from Annapolis in 1940 and was at once assigned to the 'Oklahoma'. He lost his life in the Pearl Harbor outrage. In spite of the blackout, there was an attendance of more than 70.

And so we approach another Christmas, praying that He whose birth we celebrate, may speedily bring about peace.

Sincerely yours, A. D. Swogger

January 14, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Friend Swogger:

I appreciated your good letter of December 22nd telling of your activities and of the great opportunity for service that these trying and dark days are opening to you and your church.

I am disturbed as to the best policy to following relative to the missionaries in Alaska and their wives and families. I wish, therefore, that you would make some inquiries and give me the benefit of the advice you can find. Would it be best to permit the missionary wives and families to return to the States or should they remain at their posts? Whatever advice you can find that would be a help, please send it to me because I am muchly in need of it.

Cordially yours,

EDK:McE

CURRENTLY REPORT.

Though this is a small Community, world events do very greatly affect it, as they do every other place. However we are settling down to the business at hand ~~and~~ are going forward as we should, though perhaps not so rapidly as we would like to.

Shortly after war was declared, excitement ran high for a time, and many people were wondering what was going to happen next, and if the Japs might come mo st any night; now things are more normal, though far from the peace of mind of other days, to us who are conscious of the possibilities of these times. With the Air-base so close, and so many of our young men working there and reporting the many precautions which are being taken by the Army there, it has its influence on the people here. Because we are so near the base, and because it would be so difficult to effect a perfect blackout speedily, the Army requires us to observe a nightly blackout. The first two weeks of the war, all public places were closed, even the school was closed for the first week, the purpose being to avoid the gathering of large groups together. The school work was resumed, and the Churches were blacked out, so that now we are able to hold the regular Church Services. Recently the town hall was blacked out, so that now something near the normal social life is resumed. We are required to have weekly drills of 100% blackouts, and the members of the Red-Cross unites getting to their different posts, of which there are four. A recent warning has come from the Army base that any person not cooperating with the authorities in an effort to effect a 100% blackout, is liable to be sent to the concentration camp. And so the once peaceful little village has suddenly become a place of importance, under the wing of the U.S. Army.

Naval vessels about Ketchikan are very common; and troop movements are an almost daily occurrence. All these things have an influence on the life of our community, more especially some of the young girls who have made visits to the base to get closer to soldier boys.

Yes, the war is affecting life here. The cost of living is mounting and just where the ceiling is going to be established, who knows. Statistic shows that living expenses in Ketchikan has gone up more than 35% during the past year. If Ketchikan has gone up 35%; I feel quite certain Metlakatla has advanced 45% over the same period. If the threatened 45% increase in freight rates goes into effect, what then? Living will be so high some of us will exist with difficulty, and travel will be such that we can't get out.

The Pastor feels that the Church pulse is still quite strong, and becoming more regular again. Elections for the New Year are ~~being~~ ^{on} the past, and the general feeling is that the choices of new officers were very wise. These choices include officers for the Women's Society, Sunday School, Christian Endeavor, Prayer meeting Committee, Elders and Deacons. As it appears now, the Sunday School staff is the most promising of any nine ~~years~~ ^{experiences}. The Christian Endeavor has taken over the Wednesday evening meeting. A large number of the boys are working at the base, and can not be present for the Sunday P.M. meetings, as they work 7 days a week. A week ago there were 40 or more present; last Wed. between 60 and 70. Fifteen new members were received into the Society, and both meetings were good. The Prayer Meeting Comm. had its opening meeting last Fri. eve. Just to be sociable, refreshments were served. More than 40 were present, and the interest was good.

Last night the other Church was having special Services, and serving refreshments afterward. Our attendance was more than 80. Two new families have asked for admission to the Church. And so your Missionary feels that the Church is justifying its existence here.

Since the outbreak of war the quiet and order of the community has been a bit upset. Because of the proximity of the town to the air-base a complete black-out was ordered, early in the first week of the war, and so we could not have Evening Prayer Service until the Church was blacked-out, which we did the second week. Tension was very high for a time, and the Government Office was in constant communication with the Air-base. Now that the first fear has passed away, and people are settling down to the business of normal life, activities around the Church are assuming a more natural aspect.

The 7th of Dec. the C.F. observed the White Christmas, and made it collection for Haines House, of gifts &c. When all was boxed and ready for shipment, it measured up to 413 lbs. This was sent off at once in the hope that it might reach there before Christmas. The week following the Women's Missionary Society made a collection of food stuff, as canned meats, fish, fruits, vegetables for Haines. Eight cases were collected and ready for shipment, when a convenient opportunity comes.

The Church and other organizations have held the customary elections, the officers installed, and now the newly elected are carrying on. The Pastor is very much pleased with the choices of officers for the coming year, and all hope for better things this coming year.

Many of our young men are working at the Air-base seven days a week, and at the present all are working during the day, so the C.O. Executive thought best to follow the suggestion of their Pastor and hold its devotional meeting on Wed. evening, instead of Sunday afternoon, as has been their custom. The first meeting was held last Wed. was promised an encouraging venture.

The Christmas music this year was most encouraging. About 240 persons were present to hear the choir render its Cantata.

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska

Jan 25, 1944.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I wish to thank you for the book sent me last month, "The Spiritual Diary". I enjoy it very much indeed, and get much inspiration from it. I know I shall appreciate more and more through the year.

Very sincerely yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska February 9th, 1942.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

In answer to your letter of January 14th, can only speak for the Swoggers. After talking with the Commander of the Coast Guard in Alaska, I am still of the opinion that the Swoggers place is here. So far as danger is concerned, I do not feel that we are in any more danger here, than if we went to Calif. where we would go, on leaving Alaska. Of course I speak of the present; conditions may change, but for the present I feel that our place is here, and that if I did leave for personal safety only, I would be a quitter.

I am wondering about the Spring Meeting of Presbytery. With both boats being taken over by the Navy together with many other boats in the Territory, I wonder if it will be possible to secure transportation. Ted Benson's boat is free yet. It has been called twice for short trips, and of course might be called just when we needed it.

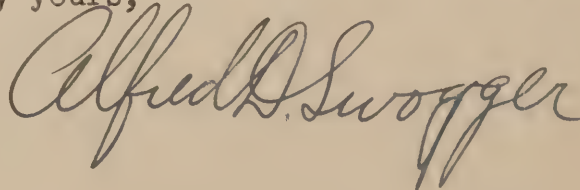
Too, to charter a boat is going to be expensive, especially if it makes the two trips from Metlakatla to Skagway to Wrangell.

With the \$92.00 for the Fall meeting of Presbytery and the \$200.00 for the Princeton-Hall Fund the Presbytery bank acct is a bit low.

What would be your advice about the matter of holding the Spring Meeting of Presbytery?

Since last writing you, the Air-base has change from the 8 hour shift for the men, to 10 and twelve hr shifts, making it impossible for the boys to get home for any evening meetings in Church. This interferes with the evening Church Service, also with the Wed. evening C.E. meeting. These are things we cannot correct, so will just continue to carry on and do the best we can.

Cordially yours,



NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. E. E. BROMLEY, CH.
HOONAH, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. J. A. GLASSE
JUNEAU, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Feb.16,1942.

Rev.E.B.King,D.D.
New York,N.Y.

Dear Dr.King:

Concerning your letter of Jan.27th re-the matter of ad-justments of salaries,I fear I will have to pass up the addition.

I had some difficulty in getting my Session to agree to pay the \$150.00 on my salary,last fall. I did succeed,however.

The Church paid its quoto to Foreign Missions;paid the insurance bill on the Church building,sent the Thanksgiving offer-ing to National Missions,contributed to the P.U.W.Emergency Fund, is giving to the Red Cross work. Besides all this we have to figure on a new heating installation for next year,plan to paint the Church outside,and inside if possible,and stain the roof.

With all the above mentioned on our years budget,I do not have the cour ge to ask the Session to try and raise \$60.00 more on my s lary. I would be willing to promise to arrange for the percentage increase mentioned in the second paragraph of your letter,but not more.

I am sorry things are as they a re just now,but I do not see what other course I can follow ~~just now.~~ *at this time.*

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

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NARRATIVE REPORT

The month has been a most varied one, but full of interest, and a measure of encouragement.

The newly elected Church officers assumed their responsibilities in an encouraging fashion, manifesting an interest in the work of the Church which spoke of growth and development. And this is where the war affected us; Just when the men who were elected to new offices, were getting ready to assume their several duties, who were working at the air-base, were ordered by the army to go on 10 and 12 hour shifts, seven days a week. Including the time to and from the base, that meant they would not be able to attend any meetings, or help in any committee work. It sure was a great disappointment to all of us, but there was nothing we could do about it.

Well, we who are left have resolved to work just a little harder, and carry on, hoping that the former arrangements may soon be resumed, and the boys will then have some time for their Church work.

The choir is very much disappointed because of the present necessities. There is no time for practice of the Easter music, and without much strenuous work the success desired will not be possible. So, again we will just have to wait and see what way may open up.

February 8th a group of our Church Workers went to the village of Saxman for a series of meetings, just for the day. The day was fine and reports came back that the trip was a most successful and profitable one. Saxman seems to be without any religious service, except the little the Salvation Army gives.

February 27, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. A. G. Swogger
Motlakatla, Alaska

Dear Brother Swogger:

If you will comply with the percentage increase as mentioned in the second paragraph of my letter, I shall O. K. the increase granted by the Board to the amount of \$60. We will make a special case in your field.

In regard to the Spring meeting of Presbytery - it is my firm opinion that it will be wise to postpone the meeting of Presbytery until summer. Of course, that is not the ideal arrangement but under the existing circumstances we are not going to be able to do every thing that we want to do. I shall be glad to offer financial help toward the chartering of a boat for the summer program that is, making the spring meeting of Presbytery and the Summer Conference come so that one boat could serve the dual purpose. I am not going to be in a position to grant a great deal of money toward the expenses to cover the Spring meeting. Please let me know as soon as you possibly can about the plans for the boat. If you want the money for the summer time, please let me have an estimate of the figures.

Very truly yours,
Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

March 23, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Brother Swogger:

Your letter of March 12th states a different figure altogether from the other information that I have received relative to the cost of chartering boats for the Spring meeting of Presbytery. If it is possible for you to charter the boats according to your statement and the cost will not exceed \$200. then I am more than willing to send you that amount of money for the meeting. Even if the chartering of the boat exceeds this amount by a small fraction, I shall be very glad to recognize that also. I can appreciate the need for a meeting of the men in Alaska and it was with a great deal of regret that I told you and others that it seemed best to cancel the Spring Meeting.

With this new information that you are sending, I am delighted to give you my permission to pursue the course and call the meeting. Please let me know immediately your final act.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. E. E. BROMLEY, CH.
HOONAH, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. J. A. GLASSE
JUNEAU, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. March 12, '42.

Rev. Everett B. King D.dD.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I will comply with your suggestion for the percentage increase as stated in your letter of Jan. 27th.

I am sorry that it will not be possible to have the Stated Spring Meeting of Presbytery as arranged for. As I note the situation here in Southeastern Alaska just now, I feel quite sure we would have been able to secure boats for the trip without too great an outlay. Then we would have been able to take care of the routine business of Presbytery, and could have reported a regular meeting to Synod and General Assembly. Too, the coming together of the men for those days would have been of great help and stimulus to one of us.

I do not think it will be possible to have a meeting of the Presbytery during the summer months. When I say a meeting of Presbytery, I mean to include the Layworkers and Elder representatives from the Churches. By May the Layworkers and Elders will be busy getting their boats in readiness for the fishing season. Too, it will be much more difficult to secure boats at that time, if indeed we could secure them at all. The Army and Navy have taken over a number of the boats which had participated in the fishing industry. As the summer approaches, more boats will be demanded for patrol duty. The demand for sea-worthy crafts will be very great. The men with the fishing boats will be busy by that time, putting their boats and seines in shape for the seasons industry. Once they start that work, it would be impossible to get them away for a week or ten days. Fishing this year promises large returns, and all will be keen to make the most of it.

I cannot say whether the people from Juneau and farther north would attend a Summer Conference, if it should be arranged for, but do know that the young people from this district would not take the time, nor venture the trip. I am being questioned almost daily about the possibility of securing a boat for getting the young people back from school at the close of the year. Too, so many of our young men have been called into the service, or are employed on some defense project, that by summer, every available young man will be much in demand for the fishing industry.

If a meeting of Presbytery could be arranged for a later date, I think we would need \$200.00 for the charter of two boats. The expense of the Fall meeting of Presbytery, and the \$200.00 voted for the Princeton-Hall Fund depleted the treasury somewhat.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

NARRATIVE REPORT

In spite of war work and all, the Church activities are keeping up very well. Five more of our boys, (Presbyterian) were called up for service, and went for their examination yesterday. Whether they pass the exam. is of course quite another matter. For that we will just have to wait and see.

I very much feared our Easter program would be a failure this year, but not so; I am happy to report. The choir started their real practice last night, and intend to render a Cantata as in other years,.

It has been the custom in the past for the Churches, the two, to take turns in having charge of the Sunrise Easter Service. This year it is our lot to have charge. With the Service goes the serving of breakfast to the community. With the rising prices, I wondered how the folks would react to the suggestion. The breakfast is sponsored by the Christian Endeavor Society, and when the proposition was put up to the Executive Comm. it responded, "Sure, we will do it." And so the young people of the C.E. have set their shoulder to the wheel and they will put the thing across. I don't know whether to call it faith or dogged determination; but whatever it is, the job is going to be done.

I am afraid this is one case of here the Minister worked against his Church's interest. Early in the winter, I talked up Defense Stamps for these people. The children spend so much money for candy &c, that I felt they would be better off if they used less sweets and put some of the money into stamps. Well, the people did not get much interested for a long time, but Dutchman that I am I did not let the matter drop. A few weeks ago I heard someone mention the possibility of selling stamps here. Then last week the teachers in the school made the start. To their great surprise, the children took to the proposition, and began to buy. In one week they sold nearly \$75.00 worth of stamps. This morning the teacher told me that one of the boys in the upper grade was purchasing the first Bond. Yesterday in Sunday School I asked my class where their collection was, and two or three spoke up, "O we spent our money for Defense Stamps." Don't you think I deserve a vote of thanks from the Government for starting the ball rolling here?

NARRATIVE REPORT.

ToDay Spring seems to be in the air, and many people are busy with their gardens, getting ready for the Spring planting. With the Government urging the people to plant more gardens, it will be interesting to see what new ventures are entered upon. The school is busy with its garden, the first of its kind during my experience here, during the 9 ye rs. If the people keep up their enthusiasm throughout the summer, it will be quite interesting to see results in the Fall.

They can do some things well, and I am quite sure if you could have been here during Easter, you would have agreed that they are a hard working capable people. The day started off with the Sunrise*Service at seven o'clock. This year the Service was held in the Presbyterian Church. The two Choirs joined in the music, and ^{contributed} rendered a very great part to the Worship. It sure did sound nice to hear a choir of nearly 60 voices. There must have been about 150 people out for the early morning Service.

Following the Worship Service, breakfast was served in the Town Hall to more than 250 persons. This breakfast was sponsored by the Christian Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian Church. It was a big undertaking for such a large group, but the deal was put across in a big way, with all working in harmony.

At the eleven o'clock Service Communion was observed, and the Baptism of infants. With so many of our people busy during the morning, the attendance was very good. Again the choir, our own, rendered good music.

Of course in the Afternoon at the Sunday School, Easter was observed for the Children, and Easter baskets &c were given out to nearly 120 children.

For the music lover, the evening Service held a treat in store. The Choir of 30 voices rendered the cantata "Jesus Lives". Every one who heard it praised the singers for the splendid manner in which the music was rendered. The perfect close of a perfect day, and I am sure all who worshiped with us were richer at the close of the day for having spent the day in God's House.

The music should have been the consummation of the days activities, but unfortunately not so. A committee of fourteen of the Elders and Deacons met to consider the matter of purchasing a heating system for the Church. Of this you will hear more in the future. Until then, a voice from the great Northwest will say GOODNIGHT.

May 27, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Friend Swogger:

I have your letter of May 3rd in which you acknowledge the receipt of our check for the Presbytery expenses. I am sorry but our auditors are becoming more and more severe in their demands and it will be necessary for you to give me not only an itemized statement of the expenditure of this money but it will be necessary for you to supply me with the receipted bills. This will go not only for the \$200. but also for the \$65.75. This is a course that you will have to follow throughout the future. All monies received from the Board of National Missions for work in Alaska will have to be supported by an itemized statement together with receipted bills. I recognize that this is going to cause you additional trouble but I feel gratified in the fact that the auditors are making this demand. After all, we are spending trust money and every penny should be properly accounted for in a business-like way.

I am quite sure that you will see the facts and will appreciate this policy.

In my last letter I asked you to send me an accounting of the \$15,000. that was received by Alaska Presbytery. I have not as yet received the accounting but am looking for it. Will you please send this as soon as you possibly can.

My wife met Mrs. Swogger at the Quadrennial in Atlantic City and enjoyed a short visit with her.

Cordially yours,

BDK:McE

NATIONAL MISSIONS
E. E. BROMLEY, CH.
KOTAIK, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. J. A. GLASSE
JUNEAU, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
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REV. ALFRED D. SWIGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWIGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. May 3d 1942.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Just returned from Presbytery a few hours ago, and found your letter enclosing the check for the Presbytery expenses. Thanks a lot for the prompt reply, and the help is very greatly appreciated by each member of the Presbytery.

Thanks for your very great interest in the efforts we are putting forth here in Alaska, for the work of the Kingdom. The meeting was very good, and a very reasonable number attended. All seemed to be happy that we could meet together at this time, and get the work of the Presbytery done properly.

It was decided to have a Summer Conference at Wrangell if transportation can be secured at that time. The Wrangell Institute has offered to be the Host of the Conference for this summer, which the Comm. very greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Swigger is attending the Quadrennial in Atlantic City this month. This is by order of the Presbytery.

Cordially yours,


Alfred D. Swigger

A.D.SOGGER

A.D.SWOGGER

May 1942.

NARRATIVE REPORT

During my absence at the meeting of Presbytery, the Elders carried on the Pulpit work, and I heard very good reports on my return. Some of the men are very capable, and the older people like to hear their own language at times.

At this time of the year, every one is much interested in the returning students from Wrangell and Sheldon Jackson School.

Last evening the students from Sitka arrived, and what a happy bunch of parents were at the dock to meet them,

After not seeing the young people for nearly 9 months, they sure look fine. The Missionary feels that if his work counted for little more than being the means of getting those young people into such a school, all the time and effort spent here would be quite worth while. What a change in their appearances and manners; and too, how loyal to S.J.S.

Mail day again, and the boat has just arrived, so will have to close for the present.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Since last reporting some things of interest have happened in the Presbytery and Church.

June 1st I went with nine delegates from this end of the Presbytery, and Mr. and Mrs. James Hall to Wrangell to attend the Summer Conference for the Young People. As we reached there we were met by a delegation of young people from Juneau. The evening was spent in getting settled, and becoming somewhat acquainted with the delegates. The next morning the delegates were enrolled, classes arranged, and the work taken up in real earnest.

As the days passed and I became better acquainted with the 42 young people assembled there for the Conference, I appreciated more and more the fine type of delegates we as instructors were privileged to work with. As we played together, worked together, and worshiped together, I was greatly pleased to be privileged to fellowship with them.

The Pageant Sat. night depicting the trial, or rather the early accusation of our Lord, given by the dramatic group was well worth seeing.

Then the Sunday night Vesper Service, followed by the very impressive Communion Service, and that followed by the Candle lighting Service, all is something long to be remembered. To see those ten young people come out and confess their need of Jesus Christ; and the four following consecrating themselves to life service. And they in turn, followed by the many others who expressed their need for a deepening of their Spiritual lives. To appreciate the whole thing one just has to be there, and to know the young people.

Why should we think it a thing strange, that it should happen that way? Well! we just don't see that sort of thing in every day life.

Last Sunday, I had the young people who had recently returned from S.J.S. assist in the evening Service, and tell something about life in the School and the things they get there in the way of training. Really, they told us somethings about the school that I did not know, although I had been around it a lot. And the way those young people could make you see the whole thing was the interesting part to me. All through their talks one could sense a feeling of pride in them, that they were students of S.J.S.

And now we come back to the ordinary tasks of visiting the sick, cheering the discouraged, and being a neighbor to those about us. And so the months pass.

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska July 8 4 1942.

Office of Dr. King
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mrs McEwen :

Regarding the defense situation in this district, I feel th t all is being done that can be done to provide for the safety of the people. Of course there is all the movement that would be expected about an Flying Field in the im-mediated district.

A number of our men are working at the Base, which, I feel tends to make the two communities one in a way. There does not seem to be the concern for their safety which seems to be felt in some places.

This is an Indian community almost 100 %, and the presence of white faces and uniforms does seem to disturb many of your young girls. In fact the social situations is very disturbing, and seems to be a difficult one for which to find a solution. Among our young people, I would say the religious situation is becoming a grave one. The lack of home discipline and the thrill of new adventures are contributing factors to the social and religious let down so manifest among our young people, especially the young girls.

The older people, and I mean people above the -teen age, are showing more interest in that which has to do with the Church.

The situation as it exists now is a most difficult one, but I have faith to believe that better days are ahead for the Minister who will put forth his best for the Master.

I trust you will be able to get something of value from the above.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger
Alfred D. Swogger

NARRATIVE REPORT

With the coming of the summer, comes the new activities in this enterprising community. With the scent of the fish coming from the distance, and coming ever nearer, activity gets under way to take the fish captive in due time.

Nature is dressing the land with beauty in abundance and giving forth her stores of berries as abundantly. The prospect indeed is pleasing, and only man is---

With the coming of the summer, the leaders of the Presbyterian Church consider the need for dressing up the Church. Nor do they let it pass in wishful thinking; They set in motion forces which will bring results in the future.

The project first on the list for consideration is the painting of the church, and staining of the roof. The material is on hand, and we are waiting for willing hands to apply it. We are only waiting for some person who will be willing to do the work for a figure, which we will be able to pay.

Second on the list is a heating system capable of heating the church building properly. We may not be able to secure the type of heater we wish, at the present, but are trying to secure the funds for the plant, so that when it becomes possible to secure one, we may do so at once.

The too, in the minds of some are dreams of a new organ, suited to the size and spirit of the church, and the worshipers. It is the young men who are dreaming the dreams, and it is the young men who are coming leaders in the Church, so we wait for what the future may have in store for us.

With the summer comes the camping season, when the Scouts go for their Annual camp. This year the Sunday the Scouts were in camp, was a most beautiful day, and as is the custom, the parents and friends of the boys spent the day in camp. As is the custom, Worship Service were held, and the Pres. Missionary was invited to give the address. There must have been at least 200 people in camp that day, and a very fine Service was conducted. I considered it a great privilege to speak to so many people, and bring the young people a message which they seemed to catch. At the close of the Service and before the assembled group, the Scout Master requested the speaker of the day to hold himself in readiness for a like Service next year. And so service is being rendered in the many way, and of various occasions.

At the present time I am enjoying the companionship of my young son. We will be together until some time in Sept. and then he will return to Kansas City to enter training, but not in the same institution as of last year. Now the young people aspire to the heights, and so with my son.

NARRATIVE REPORT

WE SOMETIMES WONDER WHAT IS TO COME NEXT. THE WEATHER HERE IS SO FINE, WITH LITTLE RAIN DURING THE WHOLE SUMMER, AND THEN WHEN THE FISHING SEASON COMES, WE FIND THE WARM DRY WEATHER IS NOT GOOD FOR THE FISHING INTERESTS.

TWO, DEPENDING UPON THE RAINS FOR OUR WATER SUPPLY, EXCESSIVE DRY WEATHER MEANS A SHORTAGE OF THE WATER SUPPLY FOR OPERATING OF THE CANNERY. OUR ELECTRIC POWER DEPENDING UPON THE WATER SUPPLY, MEANS THAT WITHOUT THE RAIN WE ARE LIKELY TO BE WITH OUT ELECTRICITY, FOR COOKING AND LIGHTS, A HAPPENING THIS YEAR.

IN THIS MODERN TOWN WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE USE OF THE OIL LAMP AND OIL STOVE FOR COOKING. WE HAVE BEEN DEPENDING UPON THE ELECTRICITY FOR ALL PURPOSES FOR SO LONG, THAT WOOD AND COAL BURNING STOVES ARE HARD TO FIND. WE WERE ABLE TO GET A TWO BURNER OIL STOVE FOR COOKING, AND A SINGLE OIL LAMP FOR LIGHT. OF COURSE WE CAN GET CANDLES, SOMETIMES.

THE CANNERY IS WORKING FULL TIME NOW, USING EVERY AVAILABLE PERSON AND SO OTHER THINGS HAVE TO TAKE SECOND PLACE. THAT GOES FOR THE CHURCH AS WELL AS FOR OTHER THINGS. THE SUNDAYSCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, AS ALL THE TEACHERS ARE BUSY AT THIS THING OR THAT. THE TWO SUNDAY SERVICES ARE STILL CONTINUED, AND WILL BE FOR THE WHOLE TIME, THOUGH THE ATTENDANCE IS VERY SMALL AT TIMES, ESPECIALLY IN THE MORNINGS.

THE MOST THE MISSIONARY CAN DO DURING THIS SEASON IS TO VISIT THE SICK, MINISTER TO THE NEEDY, AND BE A FRIEND TO MAN.

A PART OF MY TIME IS TAKEN UP WITH HELPING THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE PLANNING TO GO TO SCHOOL, MAKE OUT THEIR APPLICATIONS, AND GET EVERYTHING IN ORDER, HOPING ALL THE TIME THAT THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED, AND SO COME UNDER THE CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE OF SJS FOR AT LEAST YEAR. WITH DISCIPLINED LIVING AND REGULAR TEACHING, THE YEAR AWAY FROM HERE CAN MEAN SO MUCH TO SO MANY OF THEM, AND OF COURSE WE HOPE IT MAY MEAN MUCH TO EVERY ONE WHO GOES THERE.

AND SO WHEN WE LOOK OUT OVER THE REST OF THE WORLD, AND LEARN SOMETHING OF CONDITIONS IN OTHER PLACES, WHY SHOULD WE BE DISCOURAGED. GOD IS STILL GOD, AND THERE STILL IS FAITH IN THE WORLD.

NARRATIVE REPORT

And so we are closing another season, which turned out much better than at first expected. In spite of so many restrictions, and so much confusion, the salmon pack for the season was very good.

We did not have the tourist trade with us this season, but did have frequent groups from the army base visiting the Cannery; young men from the Eastern States who had never seen a fish larger than a medium sized trout. Of course they had never seen the fish processed, as we do here, and prepared for shipment.

During the summer, many of the men are out on their fishing boats, and a number are employed on defense work; and while the Cannery is in operation the older children who are not able to work in the Cannery have to take care of the babies at home. In spite of all this and more too, the Church work kept up very good, during the summer months.

With the closing of the first fishing season, comes the confusion of school arrangements. Former students who were away last year, have difficulty in arranging for transportation, and new ones are anxious to get away. With the transportation question so difficult, the young people who are wanting to go to Sheldon Jackson School, are having no little trouble. Usually it would be possible to charter a boat for such trips, but not so this year. We hope the difficulty may be overcome very soon.

Last Sunday we held a union Service in the Duncan Church. The occasion was the attendance of about 130 soldiers from the camp. With the completion of the road across the island, the men can come over by car, in just a few minutes, so making the matter of attending Church quite easy for the men. They have no place to worship in the camp, except the hall which is used for pictures and other public meetings. The men who were accustomed to attend Church in their home towns, very much appreciate the privilege of attending worship Service in a real Church. In the recent Service, I was privileged to bring the message to the men. I think guests and hosts enjoyed the fellowship very much, and the men went back to camp happier because of the privilege afforded them. Light refreshments were served at the close of the Service, which enabled the people of the town, and the men from the camp opportunity to get better acquainted. The worship Service and fellowship brought a blessing to many I am sure.

And so the work of the Church in all its varied forms goes forward day after day.

M. A. 2

Excerpt from letter Rev. A. B. Swagler, Metlakatla, Alaska
Sept. 15, 1942

Last Sunday we held a union Service in the Durcan Church. The occasion was the attendance of about 130 soldiers from the camp. With the completion of the road across the island, the men can come over by car, in just a few minutes, so making the matter of attending Church quite easy for the men. They have no place to worship in the camp, except the hall which is used for pictures and other public meetings. The men who were accustomed to attend Church in their home towns, very much appreciate the privilege of attending worship Service in a real Church. In the recent Service, I was privileged to bring the message to the men. I think guests and hosts enjoyed the fellowship very much, and the men went back to camp happier because of the privilege afforded them. Light refreshments were served at the close of the Service, which enabled the people of the town, and the men from the camp opportunity to get better acquainted. The worship Service and fellowship brought a blessing to many I am sure.

mk

NARRATIVE REPORT

This month has been a month of beginnings.; the choir beginning again for another year; the Sunday School beginning after the opening of school, and we could grade the new classes; the Prayer Meeting beginning after the summer rest (so called); the Christian Endeavor beginning after the summer vacation. O yes, and I should make mention of the Women's Society, which organization is worthy of high praise.

Things are different this year here, as of course they are every where. So many of our young men have been called into the service, young men who were the leaders in the activities in which the young folks participated. Too, such a large number of the men of the town who are accustomed to be around for help when called upon, are working at the base all, leaving for work in the early morning and not returning until late in the evening. Much of the work and responsibility formerly delegated to the young men will have to be taken care of either by the Missionary or the ladies. And so the prospects for the coming winter look large and varied, but quite worth while.

Sunday Oct. 4th was World Communion Sunday, and much was made of it in our midst. Notices were sent out to all the families of the Church on the stationery furnished by the Board. Then for the Service, Bulletins were prepared, and given out at the Service. On account of so many of the men being away at work during the day, it was decided to hold the Communion Service in the evening. The choir was present to sing for the evening service, which added much to the service. Every thing worked out very well, and the Service was a most profitable one. Eighty nine communicants were present, and a number remarked on how much they appreciated the Service.

Two weeks ago the choir was called together for reorganization, to the home of the Sunday School Superintendent, a widow lady. As is the custom on such occasions encouraging talks were given by various persons. The hostess gave a talk to the members present, encouraging them to do their best for the Church. I quote "I hope you will do your best to carry on the work of the choir, by being present at practices, and being present for the Church services. You never know what your music may mean to some young person, by way of encouragement, at a time when that young person needs some one to help him or her. My cousin, a young person was called away suddenly, when we little expected it. I thought, how uncertain life is. If I should be called away from my young family, I would want you choir members to give my boys help and encouragement. Speak to them kindly, and encourage them to do right. Some times we think our words won't amount to much, but we never can tell what a word of encouragement may mean to some young person. And so I want you folks to speak kind words to the young people, and so help one another!" end of quote. The spirit and enthusiasm with which she spoke could not help but do good.

And so we are going forward month by month. Possibly the ascent is very gradual, but I feel very strongly that I am quite safe in saying that it is upward and onward. And so we joy and rejoice in that we are counted worthy to be coworkers with the Master.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Carrying on from last month's report, I will say that life in the Parish is still full of interest. The choir is busy preparing for Christmas, as well as getting some special music ready for the Thanksgiving services.

The Christian Endeavor is showing much interest in its activities just now, and is taking hold of the proposed winter's program with real earnestness.

With the war making travel more difficult, still our people move about. Four of our larger fishing boats have gone to Seattle just for the trip, or rather three have gone for the trips, and one family has moved down for the winter. Twelve of the young men from our Church are in the services, or training. Too, a number are away at school. In spite of these and other distracting influences, the Church work continues encouraging. Last evening the neighboring Church invited 150 soldiers from the base to worship with them. The plan was to serve refreshments afterwards. On such occasions our people, like many others in other places, like to visit. In spite of the lure, and human curiosity, there were 86 present at our evening service. Some one remarked after the service, that they thought the Pastor ought to feel very much encouraged to have so many present, when there is such an alluring bait to go elsewhere. *(The soldiers did not come.)*

The men of the Church have decided that it is time for us to set about to plan for a new heating system in the Church. Money is plentiful just now, and many people are ready to give for some worthy cause; and we have the cause. To use the trite expression, 'they are going to town in a big way.' I realize it will not be possible to get a heater just now, but neither will it be possible to get so much money so easy after the war.

So with the above project in the fore, and some others on the horizon our people are busy during these days.

And so we labor, and PRAY, that the work of the Kingdom may ever be kept in the fore front.

NARRATIVE REPORT

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In spite of the many distractions, the past month has been a busy one, and a reasonably successful one, if I may judge from seeming interest in the work of the Church.

Christmas week was a busy time. The men, at least many of them were working at the Air base, and would not get home until evening, so that there was not so much time for choir practice, as desired. Too, there were so many community activities to distract ~~to distract~~ the attention from the Church interests, that time seemed to be at a premium.

We had an especially interesting time, Dec. 20th. We had made two attempts to have the American soldiers come over from the base for Church Service, without success. Our third attempt was more successful so on that evening about 65 men and officers came over. The service was a very splendid one. At the close of the service the men were invited to go into the social room for refreshments. At the lunch, the Commanding Officer, and a few of the other men expressed their very hearty appreciation for this privilege of meeting with the home people of Metlakatla. When the men were going out, number of the privates expressed their very great appreciation for this splendid evening. And in this way we were able to help the Army--
--men.

The custom of other years was resumed this year, and our choir went out carol singing on Christmas eve. In spite of the lateness of the hour on their return, a goodly attendance was present for the morning service, Christmas morning. Christmas evening the choir rendered the cantata, "The Light Celestial," which was enthusiastically received by a large audience.

The Watchnight service New Years eve, was well attended, and much appreciated.

Sunday morning Jan. 3d, Communion Service was held, and the attendance was good. In the evening, preaching service was dispensed with and the Annual Congregational meeting, and election of officers was held. The attendance was good, and the interest keen. The following Sunday evening, the newly elected Elders were ordained, and the newly elected officers installed. The ordination service was touching, and brought tears to the eyes of some of the older men. The two newly elected elders were young men. The older men of the Church had had considered the office of elder as only for them; and to have two young men added to the board at one time, appeared to some of them as setting the older men aside. The newly elected officers of each organization are taking up their responsibilities with enthusiasm, and wisdom.

The new Board of Deacons (Trustees) is planning large things for the immediate future. Plans are being perfected for a new heating system, so soon as it can be secured. We already have the most of the money in the bank. Other much needed repairs will be taken up very soon. So the Church is going ahead in improvements, as well as in numbers.

And so we march forward, by God's good Grace.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The term used to be applied to this place, the "little city under one roof." I would not say that was just a fitting way of expressing it, however, in a sense, it is very much one community. So many organizations here, and all the people seem to be expected to attend each function..

Last winter was a quiet time, for many reasons, but this winter folks are giving expression to their social cravings, and attending almost every function. Each of the 10 or more organizations is trying to contribute its bit to the social upkeep of the town, and we find the weeks are too short.

Besides furnishing entertainment for the guests, the Pres. Church is raising money for needed repairs, improvements, and additions or improvements of the Church. Once the war is over, and industries are back to prewar status, we will be able to install a heating system, and make some other desired improvements.

Though the people are keen on the social life of the town, I feel the spiritual life of the Church is at a higher pitch, than it has been for some time. All organizations are more alert this year, and the attendance is better than it has been for some years.

The Prayermeeting Committee, a group chosen from the Elders, decided they wanted to have a part in the improvement of the church, so they arranged to have a basket social. The affair was a financial success, and all present had a real enjoyable time. The present Comm. is made up of men over 65 yrs, and the manner in which they and others of the older folks entered into the games &c of the evening, was most interesting. I was so glad to see so many of our young people present, that they might see that the older folks could participate in games, and play. I felt the effort was a real success. I believe there was a more sympathetic understanding between the young people, and the older ones, before the evening was all spent.

As yet we are not suffering because of lack of things, though the price of many things is soaring, almost beyond the reach of some of us. A shortage in some staple goods is threatened, but as yet has not unduly affected us. To use the common expression, we can tighten our belts still more, if by so doing a just and lasting peace will be hastened.

The burning passion of my life is, that I may be able to preach the CHRIST more effectively, as the days go by. The TIME is so short. Phil. 3:10

February 27, 1943

Rev. Alfred D. Swogger
Metlakatla
Alaska

Dear Friend Swogger:

Thank you for your good letter of January 25th.

I was interested in reading the good news about the increasing interest of the men in the Church. That is certainly a fine plan to have them raise the money for a Church heating unit and, incidentally, now is the time to do things of that sort. After this conflict money may not be as plentiful as it is now.

In regard to your furlough, I am trying to work out a plan whereby you can have a years furlough, beginning this summer or not later than the first of September. If the plan is perfected, you will be paid your regular present salary and, of course, the Board will be responsible for your transportation to and from Seattle, Washington. Any additional travel you make from Seattle will have to be out of your personal funds.

I think I have a young man to come to Metlakatla and supply during your absence. Within the next few days we shall have definite information to offer you.

Cordially yours,

EBK:VLM

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. E. E. BROMLEY, CH.
HOONAH, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. J. A. GLASSE
JUNEAU, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWIGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWIGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Jan 25, 1943.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Not having heard from you for a long time, I wondered if, perchance I might be the forgetful one., and so resolved to touch the keys for a few moments.

I was told that you are contemplating a visit to Alaska this Spring, and will spend some time in Ketchikan and Metlakatla, which plan I hope will become a reality. You will see a different Metlakatla now, from the one you visited previously. The Airbase is no longer a dream, but a reality in the larger sense of the word. The road connecting the base with our town makes communications very easy; in a bad sense as well as in the better sense. Now the people on the streets scarcely raise their eyes, when the soldiers pass thru the town; so common has become the traffic, to and from Ketchikan.

The men and boys working at the base, from here make a difference in the town, also. The weekly pay-roll coming to Metlakatla is no small item. The spending ~~is~~ it is another and more disturbing feature. At the present time, I believe there are about 60 boys working out there.

About a year ago, the men of our Church chose a committee for raising money for a church heating unite. Ted Benson was made Chairman of the comm., and he went after the matter in a large way. He said to ^{us} these boys are getting big money now, and they will spend it in some way, so it is up to us to get as much as possible for the church improvement, while the money is coming in. There is already enough money in the bank for the heating project. Ted now wants to start a fund for a new organ. Some of the other men want to re-decorate the interior of the church. There is already paint on hand for the exterior of the building. Thus you will see that the men of the Church are diligent in these times of plenty. The work at the base will probably be completed within a few months, and then some families will return to common ordinary living.

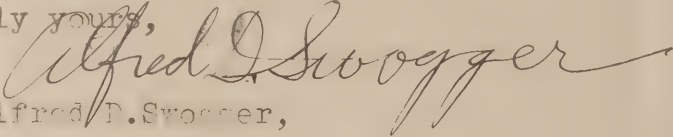
The Church does seem to be taking on new life this year. At the recent Church election, two young men were elected to the Eldership. In other years, the older men were the ones chosen for the office, as best suited for the place. This year the congregation wanted younger men for the offices, turning to the older men for counsel. Almost a complete new Board of Deacons (trustees) was elected. They have taken up their new duties in a real business fashion. Too, the Ushers have taken their work more serious this year. And I might say similar things of the Women's Society, Sunday School, C.F., Choir. And so I invite you to 'come and see'.

- Dr.King, #2
1-25-43

Dr.King, I am wondering what the arrangements are for furlough under the present set up. I have just completed my tenth year in the Service here in Metlak tla. With all the family on the outside, now, and with Mrs.Swogger's father so old, 85 years, we would like to visit them at a reasonably early date, if arrangements could be made. I would like to have suggestions regarding the possibilities, and what we might look forward to, and when.

Family news; Flora is happy in a new school in Vallejo, Calif. She changed schools last Fall, and seems very pleased with the new setup. Malcolm is still working in Boeings in Seattle, or was when he wrote his last letter. Says his number comes up again this month, and that he will probably be called into the Army. He has been deferred three times, and retained in the plant, but thinks that will not happen again. We will have to wait and see. Dallas is now a Naval Aviation Cadet, training in Liberty, Mo., or was when he last wrote. He says he will be transferred to another base after he completes his hours flying, which will be soon. And so each is serving in his and her field, and hoping.

Cordially yours,


Alfred D. Swogger,

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska

February 27th 1943.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

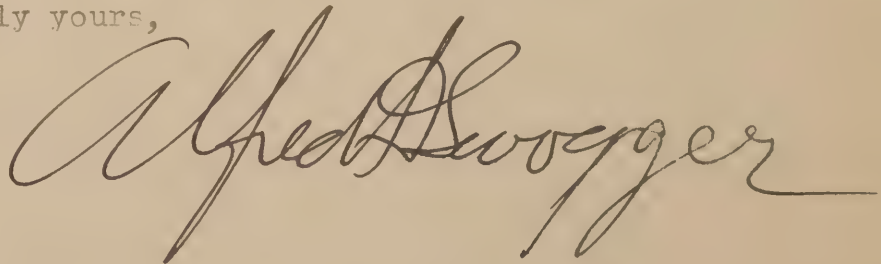
My failure to write you in appreciation of the books sent, is not because of lack of appreciation. I find Baillie's book "Diary of Private Prayer" is very stimulating, and helpful in my devotions. "Alaska Under Arms" is very fine, and a true picture of things for the time it was written. Things are changing so rapidly these days, that a pen picture might be very true for Feb. but ~~but~~ lacking in many details for March 15th. Even our quiet little village of Metlakatla of two years ago, is ~~is~~ different today. Military men from two countries are frequently seen in the village. Planes are over the village daily, and frequently during the night, on their way North and South.

Thanks a lot for both books.

According to present plans, the meeting of Presbytery will be the first week in April, providing of course, we can get transportation. I believe we will be able to get boats for both trips, if nothing drastic happens before that time. We wonder to what amount the Board will be able to help the Presbytery this year. I would say that the grant given in past years would be sufficient to cover the expense of the boats, with what the Presbytery will be able to contribute.

The Sitka group is with us this weekend, and we are having a good time, and looking forward to an inspiring worship service tomorrow morning. Rev. Bily is with the boys, and made a splendid impression on our people at the get-together last evening.

Cordially yours,



4200

March 15, 1943

Rev. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Swogger:

Enclosed you will find a check for two hundred (\$200.00) dollars to cover expenses for the meeting of the Presbytery in April. You will please send me an itemized statement for the expenditure of this money in order that I may have them for our records here. I trust you will have a splendid meeting of the Presbytery.

In regard to your furlough, I have not yet definitely heard from you as to what you wanted. Will you want to spend six months or twelve months in the states? What time will it be best for you to leave Metlakatla? I do not as yet have any supply for your church, but am working on that.

If you will please air mail this information about your desires and wishes relative to the furlough, then I can proceed to set up plans.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

Ch rec + 3/16/43
MK

NARRATIVE REPORT

The winter has been cold and stormy, bringing trouble to many people, but the temperature of the Church has kept up very well indeed. The attendance has been good, and the interest reasonable.

Since last reporting the Sitka Basket Ball Team, and good-will group has been here, and gone. I feel the visit is a real worth-while one, bringing to the minds of the people again a consciousness of the worth-while place Sitka Mission School is filling in this part of Alaska. The boys played a good clean game of Basket Ball, and they also conducted a worthwhile worship Service in the Church, Sunday morning. The congregation, which was a good one for a morning Service very much appreciated the boys singing, as well as the message brought by Rev. Bily.

The Representative of the Red Cross gave a talk the first Sunday evening of the month, which was very much appreciated. The officers of the Church voted to give the evening offering to the Red Cross. The offering amounted to \$32.56. This was after the Red Cross drive had been made in the town, which raised the largest amount ever yet collected for that purpose. So that I thought our people did very well indeed.

Now comes the strain of getting ready for Presbytery, and so all are very busy.

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska March 29th 1943

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

with me
Mrs. Swogger talked the matter over, and we have decided that it be best for us to take six months furlough this year. We think it would be best for all, for us to go out the first of September, and return the first of March, in order to be here for the Easter ingathering. *see if you can get out there*

People are all busy during the summer months, and for a new person to come in and try to pick up the work, would, I fear, become discouraged. The summer work will be over by the first of Sept. and the folks will be wanting to settle down for the winter, and the Holiday preparations. For these reasons, I think it would be best for the work, in the Church, and for the Person or family coming in, that we go out in the Fall.

I mention six months, because I feel that big changes are in the near future, for Metlakatla, and I can serve these people, when the war begins to clear up, and things begin to approach normality.

Mrs. Swogger and I both wish to express to you our very great appreciation for your interest in our interests.

We leave for the meeting of Presbytery in a few hours, and ^{for} days of hard work.

We as Presbyters, will do our best to make this meeting, a splendid, ^{one} as you have wished.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

Alfred D. Swogger

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska April 2nd 1943.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

We are having a very fine time here in Juneau at the meeting of Presbytery, and the spirit of the meeting is very fine.

I am writing to you at this time to say that I have been elected Ministerial Commissioner to General Assembly meeting in Detroit, in May. I question the wisdom of my accepting the honor. I have already written you that I think it best for the work here in Metlakatla, that we go out in September, and return in March 1944.

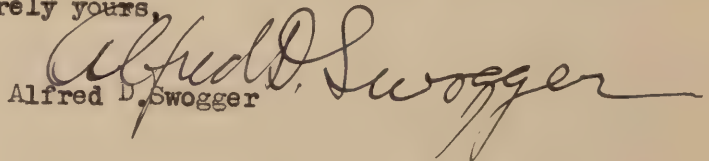
Rev. Mr. Swanson was the Minister who should have gone, but said it was out of the question for him to go. I was then elected as Commissioner, and Rev. Mr. Soboleff as Alternate Ministerial Commissioner. Mr. Soboleff just tells me that he does not want to go this year.

The question was raised on the floor of Presbytery, whether we should send a Commissioner this year. The final vote was in favor of the sending one, and so, --.

I hope you will agree with me about my suggested plans for our furlough, and that it would be best for me not to go to Assembly.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred D. Swogger



April 14, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Brother Swogger:

I think you have acted wisely in not accepting the election as a Commissioner to General Assembly, due to the fact that you are planning to have the six months furlough this year.

My feeling is that it might be better for you to come out in June and to remain in the States for eight or ten months. I think it would be easier to arrange for a supply for this time, than it would be to arrange for a supply for only six months.

Cordially yours,

BEK/mk

NARRATIVE REPORT

The work here in Ketlakitta is not becoming easier, as the years pass. With so many young men from all parts of the country, and from varied conditions of life, and influences, being stationed so near our town,, it brings its many difficulties. Some of our young girls think that to associate with a young fellow wearing a uniform, is the height of their ambition. And whether the association is day or night, makes little or no difference... Perhaps their reasoning is that the darker the night, the closer they should cling to the man.

You ask where the parents are? My answer would be that some of the parents reason, well, we brought the children into the world, we feed them when they are at home, we cloth them after a fashion, and so we have done our part.

I do not for one moment want to ~~ve~~ give the impression, that I think many of the parents are of that mind; in fact the ~~is~~ is very small, that small per cent does a lot of mischief. Our old readers used to say that one bad apple did much mischief, and so here. The situation is a most trying one, and it looks so big to us here, as we view it at close range.

Just another situation brought about by the war. Another situation to wrestle with, by trying to make possible more Christian homes. The girls are to blame, as are the boys also, and I do not wish to be appointed judge to say which should bear the greater part of the blame. I do not hesitate to place very much blame on the parents, who will allow young girls 12 & 14 yrs of age to be away from home two nights, and not be concerned about where the youngsters may be.

There are times when I think I would like to be young enough to serve with the armed forces. Then when I sit down and calmly look about me and see the present and pressing needs at hand;- well, I guess I do not need to go else where for something worth while, to do.

And so the Lord willing, I am resolved to give more faithful and diligent service to the bettering of conditions in the little world in which my lot is cast.

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska April 28, 1943.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Your letter of the 14th Inst reached me last evening.

I set Mar. as the return date, as I wanted to be back in time for Presbytery in '44. I am willing to go out in June, if the longer time will make it easier for you to secure a supply for the Field.

One matter is going to come up later which gives us some concern. You will no doubt recall that the furniture, except the dining-room set, belongs to us. We do not plan to take it all out with us, when the time for retirement comes. Now that our children are no longer with us we would be glad to dispose of some of it, ~~if possible~~ if possible.

Had a splendid time on Easter. At the morning worship had baptisms, and reception of members. Nine young people from the Sunday School united with the Church, and one boy from the Army here, who had married a girl of our Church. At the evening service, We dedicated a Service Flag with fifteen stars, representing the boys who are now serving in the armed forces from this Church. Three more go tomorrow, which will bring the number up to eight en. Following this the choir rendered the cantata "Memories of Easter Morn," to an appreciative audience, of more than ~~200~~ 200 persons. A group of about 50 soldiers from the Base was present; also a large group from the Ketchikan Presbyterian Church. The Women's Missionary Society served light lunch in the social rooms, following the service.

All felt that the evening was well spent.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

April 28, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Brother Swogger:

Several weeks ago I wrote to you asking for definite information relative to your plans for furlough. To date I have not received any reply. It is quite necessary that I have this information in order to make plans for a supply in Metlakatla during your absence.

My feeling is that it would be best to plan to have a supply in Metlakatla beginning October 1, 1943. This supply could remain there living in your home and serving the church.

I suppose the supply would be there for a period of six months or whatever time you expect to stay in the States. Please let me have this information by air mail.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

The Hydaburg Totem

Sponsored by the
Haida 4-H Club

Printed at the
Price Two Cents

Hydaburg Alaska
May 5, 1943

VISITORS IN HYDABURG

Mrs. Amy Taylor, of Ketchikan is here on a visit with her sister Sarah Grant. She has been here a week and will be here for a month while Mr. Fred Grant is in Ketchikan having his boat the Phoenix Six fixed.

B.H.

Mrs. Pryor of Haines Alaska, sister of Mrs. Susie Brown, arrived in Hydaburg last week coming over on the plane. She is here to visit her sister and family and will be here sometime.

Mrs. Fohn-Hansen who is with the extension service of the University of Alaska was here last week. She held a special meeting for the women at the schoolhouse on Saturday afternoon giving recipes and demonstrations in baking. On Friday night she visited the 4-H Club meeting and gave a talk on 4-H work. She left April 25 after staying only two days. (A.C.)

MRS. FRANK RETURNS

Mrs. Lucy Frank returned from Ketchikan after a two weeks visit with her two daughters there, Mrs. Adelia Haldane and Mrs. Clara Natkong. E.H.

Mrs. Lena Charles Returns

Last Friday the plane brought two passengers. Mrs. Lena Charles and son Jerry. They had been visiting Lena's sister Bertha George in Metlakatla for two months. Miss George is teaching there.

4-H NEWS

Two weeks ago the 4-H meeting was held as usual but the President was not present. We regret to say that he (Jay Snodderly) had left for Ketchikan with his cousin Leon who had been visiting him for a few days. So a new president had to be elected. Lois Douglas was elected. H.G.

The boys and girls of the 4-H Club in Mr. Miller's room were dismissed two afternoons last week to work in their gardens. Some have already planted seed and all did good jobs in digging and pulling up roots and clearing out rocks. If you are interested in what your boys and girls are doing you should walk around town and look at their garden spots.

ELLIE ARRIVES

*Last Tuesday afternoon, April 27, 1943
*the Ellie (Skipper Harris Natkong) arrived here and brought a few passengers.
*They were Mr. and Mrs. Willis Bell and family who have been in Ketchikan all winter. Mr. and Mrs. Louie Kitkoon also back home after the winter in Ketchikan, Mrs. Leona Hamilton and Mrs. Lucy Frank.
*They had a very pleasant trip. (W.H.)

BOATS TO KETCHIKAN

*Last week the Orion (Skipper Delbert Nix) and the Alma (Skipper Sam Douglas) went to Ketchikan. Mrs. Delbert Nix and Janet went along on the Orion and Mrs. Sam Douglas on the Alma. They both returned yesterday having had a good trip.

ELME TO EDNA BAY

*The Elme went up to Edna Bay for a few passengers. They were Mr. Frederick George and Mr. Helgesen for Hydaburg and Mr. Charlie Nelson for Craig. Those going along on the trip from here were Arnold Edenshaw, who was the engineer on the boat, Thelma Morrison, Conrad Helgesen and Romy Edenshaw. Coming back they stopped at Craig to see the show. Rachel Demmert and Sally Charles took part in an amateur stunt night show. (R.E.)

FORMER S.J.S. STUDENT

*Former S.J.S. students will be interested to hear news of Mrs. Anna Johnson Benton. Word was received that she is a nurse in the Army now and a Lieutenant. When last heard from she was in Florida.

STEEL HEADS.

*About two weeks ago the steel heads started up the creeks. People have been going to other creeks than Hydaburgs. They have been going to Dunbar, Sultree and up the Cove. There are plenty of steel heads in all the creeks now. Land otters are going up too. Yesterday when we went after some steelheads we saw a land otter. He was probably chasing the fish. We tried to catch him but he was too fast for us. He went under a tree in the water. We saw plenty of steel heads that day but only caught one.

Milton George

STOREKEEPER FOR THE SUMMER

During the absence of Mr. Fred Grant this coming summer Mrs. Swanson will act as storekeeper. She has been in the store since April 20th.

EASTER SUNDAY

It was a glorious Easter here this year. We wish that every citizen of Hydaburg could have been here. The day was bright and beautiful. The two services in the church were well attended. The choir rendered two selections at each service and the Junior choir also took part in each. In the evening service some smaller children had a part. The evening was in charge of the Womens Missionary Society. Refreshments were served after the program in the social room.

POETS CORNER

Friends

If you have just a friend or two
Who will laugh and sing with you
You have a greater blessing true
Than diamonds of the richest hue.

Friendship is a wondrous thing
A blessing rare and fine,
You will not need a dozen men
If one true friend you can find.

A friend to keep as the years unravel,
As onward as side by side you travel
To each other, faults be ever blind
Seeing only the good the true, the kind.

So keep your jewels if you may
But friendship you must treasure,
For thieves may steal your jewels away
But friends are yours forever.

by Ray Little.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Lois Douglas and Barbara Hamilton each celebrated their birthdays with big parties. Lois was entertained and many guests attended her party at the school house. Barbara was surprised by a group collected at Lydia Charles store.

BIBLE CLUB CLOSES

The Bible Club which has been held in the church every Wednesday evening closed with a program at the Church last Sunday evening. An example meeting was held including the Bible Drill which has been the highlight of each Wednesday evening when there was competition between the blue and the red sides. Winners Sunday night was the Red side which was awarded with a treat. First prize in Bible memory work was awarded to Loretta Williams; second prize went to Bernice Edenshaw. The losing side in attendance gave a treat downstairs after the program to the winners.

VISITOR AT CHURCH

An unexpected and delightful surprise was the visit of Johnny Sandersen at the church service on Easter night. He was wheeled up in a wheel chair. Johnny had been sitting up in the afternoon and had enjoyed the whole day.

Mr. Sam Davis who has been ill in bed for several days was out yesterday morning to church. We were all glad to see him strong enough to take such a walk.

We are all glad to hear too of the recovery of Mrs. Susie Brown who has been confined to her bed for some time.

BOAT LAUNCHED

The news is so fresh it almost slipped our minds. News deserving more than the small mention of this little column. Today the "Claudine" built by Boyd Charles was launched at one o'clock. Boyd helped by his brother and father has been working all winter on the boat. We congratulate him and wish him and the "Claudine" luck.

Well folks, this is good-bye for the summer. We will hope to hear from you before fall. A Happy summer to you all.

May 7, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Brother Swogger:

I cannot as yet give you any definite date about the time for you to plan on your furlough. I have been in touch with one or two different individuals relative to supplying Metlakatla during your absence, but so far have not arranged anything definite. Would it be possible for you to arrange for a Chaplain there at the air base to supply the Church during the time you are out? If that kind of arrangement could be made then, of course, a six months furlough would be all that you would want. You might investigate and see whether or not there is any possibility of securing a Chaplain for this extra work. In the meantime, I shall continue to pursue my plans here. If anything develops definitely, I shall wire you.

In regard to your furniture the Board will be glad to pay you a reasonable price for all the furniture that you want to leave in the manse. My suggestion is that you prepare a list now and submit it to the Board for consideration. After you draw the list up, itemizing each piece of furniture, giving the date of purchase, the cost and condition; then the amount that you are asking for each piece of furniture, I think we would be in a position to negotiate with you.

Thank you for the good word that you sent relative to your Easter Service. It is certainly encouraging to receive this fine report from the field.

Cordially yours,

EEK/mk

NARRATIVE REPORT.

This year we did not have the early morning Easter Service. The Church had the early morning service, and a few of our people went to it. At 11:00 o'clock we had a very nice Easter Service. Had the baptismal service, and the reception of members, taking in ten by profession, and one, a soldier from the Base by Certificate. The ten were young people coming in from the Sunday School. At 3:00 o'clock we had a short service for the Sunday school, and gave the children Easter candies &c. The attendance was very good, though not all the members were out. There were 125 present at that service.

At the evening service the choir rendered a cantata, "Memories of Easter Morn," to an appreciative audience of about 225. 50 boys were over from the Army Base, and a group of 40 came over from the Presbyterian Church in Ketchikan. The evening was nice, and the fellowship together was very much appreciated by all.

At the close of the evening service, the ladies of our church served lunch to all the visitors, or rather to all who would remain. And so another happy Easter has passed into history.

Then on May 9th we had another small ingathering. Four more of the young people of the community united with our Church. Just making up for our shortcomings of last year, when we did not report any ingathering.

The Spring work is on the move again. The Cannery crew is here, and preparations are forward for the coming fishing season. Too, the families are busy getting in the supply of Sea-weed for the coming year. The sea-weed gathering reminds me so much of the way my grandparents used to gather herbs for the winter, for colds, blood tonics, &c. The sea-weed is used for spice, and is very rich in iodine content.

There is much excitement in town at this season, as the parents are eagerly looking forward to their young people returning from Wrangell Institute, and from Sheldon Jackson School.

In spite of all the diversions that come up from time to time, I feel that the Church is going ahead, and the Spiritual life is deepening in the lives of many of the people.

And so we PRAY and so we labor, to plant well the Gospel seed.

Metlakatla, Alaska. May 17th 1943.

Dear Dr. King:

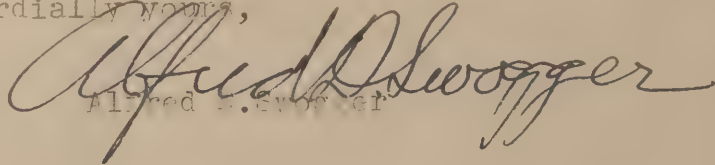
I have been studying the Report Blank and will send a proposed change to you soon. I shall do my best, but can not now promise that I will be able to keep to one page for the report as you suggested.

Just learned a few days ago that the Duncan Church is considering changing over to the Methodist Board. Some of their leaders have been talking to some of our Elders, trying to get them to favor a dropping of the Presbyterian Church, also of discontinuing the Duncan Church and unite in a M.E. Church. I was no little amused at the answer one of the Elders gave them. For answer see I Kings 3:16-.

The old question of too many Churches was brought up, and Duncan Elder suggested that there should be but one Church. No, said the Pres, Elder, our Church is doing the work of the Lord as He commanded, and why should we stop. The for proof he again quoted, Matthew 25:35-.

And so there are still occasional eruptions here.

Cordially yours,


Alfred E. Swonger

May 19, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Brother Swogger:

Your letter of May 10 is on my desk. I have sent you a letter dated May 7, which, of course, did not arrive previous to the writing of your letter. In my letter you will find an answer to the question you raise about the furniture.

Thank you for the good report about the Sunday school offering. That certainly is a tribute to you and to the fine leadership that you have been giving to these children. When we receive the check for \$21.00 we shall credit it as the Children's Day Offering from the Metlakatla Sunday School.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

Dictated but not signed
by Dr. King.

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. E. E. BROMLEY, CH.
HOONAH, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. J. A. GLASSE
JUNEAU, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. May. 10, 1943.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Following is a copy of my letter of April 28th, in case the other one did go astray.

"I set March as the time for returning, as I wanted to be back in time for the meeting of Presbytery in '44. I am willing to go out in June if the longer time, earlier date, will make it easier for you to secure a supply for the field.

One matter is going to come up later which gives us some concern. You will no doubt recall that the furniture in the manse here, except for the Dining Set, belongs to the Swoggers. Now that our children are no longer with us, we could well dispose of some of it; in fact we want to dispose of the most of it, when the time for retirement comes, if it is not worn out then. "

Yesterday's experience gave me a new thrill. Sunday May 2nd, I put the proposition of giving something to National Missions, to the Sunday School children. I impressed on them what the National Board had done for our Church, and is doing, and suggested that they say thank you to the Board, by giving the Mother's Day offering. I gave them Nat'l Missions envelopes and asked them to put their Sunday School money for Mother's Day in them. The result was far beyond my highest expectation. The offering totaled \$ 21.00

The children had a large part in the evening Service, and I was very proud of the way they all did their parts.
SOME JOYS IN THE MISSION WORK.

Cordially,

Alfred D. Swogger

*attached
in your reply*

Carroll Mitchell
June 1, 1943

Rev. Alfred D. Swogger
Metlakatla
Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

Thank you for sending me the itemized statement of the expenses of the prostrate meeting in Juneau, April 1st to 4th. I am glad that the Board was able to have a share in this fine meeting. I also note with encouragement that you have a cash balance in the treasurers account. Congratulations.

Please let me have additional information relative to the talk that you mention about the Duncan Church considering the change to become a Methodist church. Let me have all the information that is available. This is quite interesting and it is the first looking that I have had of such a move.

Cordially yours,

EKK:f

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska June 2nd 1943

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Your letter of May 7th just reached me, and I hasten to answer.

About the possibility of getting a Chaplain from the Base to supply the Field during my proposed absence, that is quite out of the question. With the large force of men there, and only one Protestant Chaplain he is kept extremely busy. He tells me that he is having meetings each week day, in some part of the camp, and two or three on Sundays.

Now that June is here, and there is no hope of getting out this month, we are wondering if the vacation might possibly be arranged for some time near the middle of August. Dallas is now stationed in a camp near Seattle, and will be graduating from there late in Aug. Malcolm is working in Seattle, and the Daughter has suggested the possibility of her coming up for that event. That would mean that the Swogger family could be together for at least a few hours. Dallas's next assignment will probably be so distant that it will be out of the question to visit him, and after that !! who knows?

Will answer as soon as possible regarding the furniture proposition.

Last Sunday evening we had a union Service in our Church, and Rev. Schmidt gave the Memorial address. It was a very splendid Service, with an attendance of 190. I announced that the offering would go to the China Relief Fund. I thought the people would be generous, but must say that the offering was beyond my expectation. The evening's offering was \$53.00. One lady came to Church without her purse, and so she put her wedding ring on the plate. As I came out of the Church she met me, ready to redeem the ring with two paper dollars.

The audience was made up in part of about 40 Alaska Territorial Guards of our community. We are very proud of the group; they are doing very splendid work in their training.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

June 14, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

I was afraid that the Chaplain would not be able to help us out supplying for you during your absence. I am sure that he has more now than he is able to do. How about George Beck there in Ketchikan? Would Beck be acceptable to your congregation? If he is acceptable let me know, and I shall write to him and try to work out some arrangement.

As you can well appreciate, it is no easy task to find a person for supply work. There is such a shortage of manpower in the ministry that we are having a hard time keeping the regular work going. Please let me know as soon as possible about Beck.

Thank you for the good word you gave me about the union service in our Church.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

NARRATIVE REPORT

The summer work is on for another year, and the boys who still remain at home after the Government has called what she want to protect our shores, are all busy, or can be if they want to.

May thirtieth found the two Churches worshiping together for the evening service. I had extended an invitation to the Alaska

Home Guards to come to our evening Service in a body. Very shortly a suggestion came to me asking that we might have a union service in our Church. About 40 of the Guards attended the service as an organization. Rev. Schmidt of the Duncan Church spoke to the group

In the afternoon was the annual parade to cemetery, with fitting services at each place. The offering for that ~~evening~~ evening, amounting to \$48.00 was given to the China War Relief Fund.

Some of the men of the Church are giving the building a new dress. The men come up after working hours, usually about six o'clock, and work on the Church until nearly dark, which some times is till after 10 o'clock. They have given the roof a coat of green stain, and are painting the Church white. There have been many interruptions, but a few of the men have continued faithful, and if all goes well, we will finish the work this week. One group of men have been busy rebuilding the foundation and replacing the floor of the C.F. porch. Yes, I almost forgot to mention another improvement made recently. Three or four men came up in the evening and put a new linoleum on the Church kitchen floor and sink board. One evening they worked until after 12 M. and all in good spirit. If I could just say that many of the men showed up for work, instead of a few, how encouraging it would be. However I suppose I should be thankful for small beginnings, and live in hope for better things yet to come. The days, evenings, the men work on the painting, the some women of the Church come up and prepare lunch for the men, and serve the men when they get through. It does seem to make a difference, and the men seem to work better if they know that they are going to get some hot coffee before going home.

The students are home from Sitka School, as well as from other schools. Some of the mothers of boys who have been attending S.J.S. have taken opportunity to mention to me, how different their boys are, after spending one year there. The boys are much more thoughtful, and willing to help around the home in various ways.

And so the spirit of Presbyterianism is serving in various ways, and places in Alaska, and so we press forward and upward.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Sometimes one feels like saying, "every prospect pleases", then something comes along to upset the equilibrium, and many things seem to become askew. Happy to say though, that they do not long remain awry.

The church is painted at last, and it does look fine with its new dress-coat. With the fresh green roof, and the white body, it looks just as nice as any other building in Metlakatla. Some of the men of the church did the work, so that the money we had collected to pay for getting it done, is saved, and we will be able to use that for some other needed repair. The men would come there after supper and work until 10:00 o'clock, and some times later, painting, and the ladies, under the direction of the Women's Missionary Society, would prepare a lunch for the men, then they would have a good visit over the lunch, and all would go away happy. Not as many came out for the work, as I had hoped would, but the spirit of those who did come was very splendid. I might say further, that the three men who were the most active in the work, are all Elders, new, and young men who came into the Church membership recently, I mean within the last 5 years. That again makes the Pastor feel good.

Now we are on the way for a new organ. Have already got an account started for that, with promises that it will grow during the present canning season. The heater fund is, I believe, sufficient to take care of that project. We have sufficient funds for re-varnishing the seats, and building some more. So that we do not see anything in the way of going ahead in raising money for a more satisfactory organ arrangement.

June 20th was Boy Scout day, for our community. Nearly the whole community went out to spend the day with the Scouts who had gone out the week before, for a six day camp. The affair was a picnic and worship service combined. Our plan was, to be back in town for the evening Service, but due to the rough weather, we did not return in time. June 27th, we had our Communion Service in the evening. Men were busy getting their boats ready for fishing, and would not come out in the morning, so we choose the evening time. 62 persons partook of the Sacraments, and all seemed to appreciate the service. July 4th was an off day. Ketchikan threw out every possible inducement to draw the people over there for Sunday. They advertised the parade, races &c for that day. A great many of the people did fall for the bait, and came home much disappointed, and/ the day was wet and cold, with out ballgame, parade, or parade.

Yes, Presbyterians have a very real place in the life of this community, one that no one else can fill, and they are doing a noble part in filling that place.

NATIONAL MISSIONS
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STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWIGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. July 24th 1943.

Rev. Everette B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

About the possibility of getting a supply for ~~me~~ for a few months, as no word has come bring^{ing} a ray of hope, and Rev. Mr. Beck is out of the range of possibility, I wrote Rev. David Waggoner if he would like to spend some time in Metlakatla, serving the field, and renewing old acquaintances.

I received a reply from him a week ago. He told me of all the things he is doing by way of gardening, besides frequent supply work, which shows that he is a very busy, and robust man.

He says his son wants him to help in the fruit harvest in that district for two weeks in Sept.

He concludes his letter by saying that he would be willing to come up for the months of October and November. Of course ^{that} is very far from the first suggested period of vacation, but it would be a very greatly appreciated break, if nothing better is possible this year.

If you wish to communicate with Mr. Waggoner, his address is Rev. David Waggoner 2100 E. Sunset Drive, Bellingham, Washington.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swigger

July 24, 1943

Rev. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla,
Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

Thank you for your letter of June 26 in which you state that you feel that Rev. Mr. Beck would be most acceptable as the supply for Metlakatla during your absence.

I am today writing to Mr. Beck and asking him to consider supplying for you for a period of six months beginning September 1.

I note what you say about the difficulty in getting oil from the dock to the house, but I suppose that difficulty could be taken care of.

I am going to notify Mr. Beck to tell you his decision so that you can govern yourself accordingly.

Cordially yours,

EKK:is

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska June 26th 1943.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York 10 N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Your letter of the 14th Inst, received yesterday, and I hasten to answer.

Yes, Rev. Mr. Beck would be most acceptable here, or in fact in any field in Southeastern Alaska. One difficulty in such an arrangement for the winter months, would be the getting oil from the dock to the house.

Nothing ventured, nothing won, so there ^{be} can be no harm come of contacting him, and getting his reaction.

Just finished painting the church, last evening, from the ground to the tip of the Cross. It sure looks nice now and ~~well~~, the men who did it have every reason to be proud of it. Will write more about this recent project later.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

July 29, 1943
AIR MAIL

Rev. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla,
Alaska

Dear Rev. Swogger:

Enclosed you will find forms dealing with the new Pay-
-less-Go Tax. The pamphlet is for your information
relative to the tax seminar. The form is for you to
fill out and to return immediately to my office.

May I emphasize that it is essential that the treasurer's
office has these forms from you in hand, in order to
make the proper payments on your salary check.

As an ordained clergyman, you will be exempted from any
of the withholding requirement, but nevertheless, it is
necessary for you to fill out the form and send it in.

Since you are exempted from the withholding, it will be up
to you to file your Income Tax in September and make the
necessary payment.

Cordially yours,

EMK:is
Enc.

August 4, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla,
Alaska

Dear brother Swogger:

It seems that we are having difficulties in finding a supply to relieve you for a few months, but I am still hopeful and, no doubt, we will be able to give some definite report before long.

It would have been fine if Rev. Waggoner could have supplied the church for six months. I do not feel that it would be right to come up for October and November; that would not give you the needed time for your furlough.

Since we are planning for you to be out at least six months, I think we had better stick by the plan.

Cordially yours,

EEK:is

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska Sept 4th 1943.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Now that we have entered into Sept. and no word has come regarding a relief for the proposed furlough, I am suggesting that, unless arrangements are well on the way for some one to come to relieve me very soon, we call the whole thing off for the present. I want to be present for the meeting of Presbytery in the Spring, and I would need to be back on the field early in March, in order to get all the blanks out to the churches. Too, I feel that if ever I was needed here, I am needed this winter; so many little mal-adjustments to be righted, or at least try to right them, so many lives to be ministered to; so many letters to be written to the boys in the service of the country so much work to do in the Church, so much earnest effort I should like to put forth, that I want to stay on the job for the present year at least. The Lord has been looking after me in such a wonderful manner during the years that have past, and I do feel there is much to do in the near future, and I would like to have opportunity to try to do it, that I am asking you to drop the matter of a furlough for me, at least for the present year. If I am worthy of a furlough next year, I am quite sure the Lord will provide.

I took ten days off early in Aug. and went to Seattle to see the family. Mrs. Swogger had gone down earlier. The daughter came up from Calif. to see the boys. Malcolm had been called up, and was expecting to be inducted Aug fifth, but in the end Beings Aircraft would not give him up, so he is still in Seattle. Dallas was completing his training in Pasco Wash. and granted a five day leave, before going to Corpus Christi for his last training, and then where?? So you see it was a sort of a family reunion. And how worthwhile it was too.

About twelve new students are going to SJS from here according to present plans. I have been very busy during the past days seeing to registrations and &c, but will be free after Tue. next when the good ship SJS II will take the children off to school

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger
Alfred D. Swogger

Wales. Alaska.
Sept. 15th, 1943.

Dr. Everett B. King.
#156-5th Ave.
New York 10.
N.Y.

Dear Dr King;

The Report for the month just ended is enclosed herein, and I hope you can get the Datta from it that will be satisfactory. I could not fill out the kind of Report I am in the habit of sending you, since these New Sheets don't seem to take such a Mission Station as this is in its Category.

You will need to compare this Report with that of last month to understand fully what I am trying to tell you.

Thought there have been very, very few of us here all summer; and many times we just could not manage to hold the scheduled Meeting; still when possible we have held our services as usual, and no one can see the fruits of my Predecessors' Seed sowing as clearly as I can during the summer months. And many times when I went to open the church and prepare a fire; during wet weather and cold winds, there was not a soul in sight, but by the time the last Bell was due to be rung, the most of the few that were in town were quietly sitting along the grassy bank outside the church just waiting to enter, while I would ring the bell. I believe it was Kipling that one time wrote a poem "on "It takes a lot of living, in a place to call it Home"; and so it does seem to me these times, especially this summer, since we have had so much sickness amongst the children and lost so many; as I go about amongst these folks, it is a great satisfaction to be greeted with a congenial smile; as ^{we} meet each other in conferences for arranging how we must manage to get on with our summers work, when there are so few to work, and even in scarcity of our usual quota of workers, all of us have been most thankful for the "Tie that binds our hearts in christian Love", And even women older than I; have taken a mans place and helped to carry on right along; with me; often all night long, not just for one day and one night, oh no, but until the difficult situations were cleared up, or we had done all that could be done. Maybe it was working all night to care for what God had provided of His kingdoms boundless store of materials; maybe it was at the bedside of some child or "some ones mother" we spent our talent, patience and love; then when the awakening, (and also weak hours for the sick); hours of the morning; God called his Own Home, our vigil was ended.

Then shortly we found ourselves in church, seated quietly, reverently waiting the sound of "the last bell". Soon could be heard the soft music and words of the Hymn "The Lord's our Rock; in Him we Hide etc".

Now the summer days are drawing to a close, and the many families who have been absent for months are slowly, one by one returning, it is cold, wet, windy, and they seek the haven of their little Huts, "home"; And there is the increase of the patter, patter of mocassined feet, in the public school, in Sabbath School, Church, in the Community pathways; at the water Fountain; and we realize once again we are making ready to settle in for the winter season; home again, except for those young men who are somewhere; we know not where; giving their life, so we may enjoy peace; the blessed peace of christian brotherly love at home.

How kind, how good God has been to us. Strange faces we see, often, they are bronzed, weather beaten, wear a kindly smile, a heart stirring "thanks you" is spoken in return for something for "mess" maybe a loaf, doughnuts, anything. And to keep us all going; our prayers are being answered, slowly, but surely and we rejoice together as we try to do our best for our Master. Sincerely yours

Emma M. Stauffer

NARRATIVE REPORT

The summer months are always hectic ones, and the past summer has been no exception. Every one was employed, even the two Ministers this year. Most of the men are away on the boats fishing, only coming home for Sat. night. The few remaining men, women and children are employed in the cannery. This year the age limit for those who could work, was lowered to 15. That meant a lot more of the young people were employed. One advantage in this employment, was that it kept those young people out of mischief. They were not used to the long hours, and steady concentration on their work, and so they became tired, irritable, and restless. Another contributing factor to the restlessness, was the constant coming and going of the Military personal. The bright uniforms of the Army and Navy appeared very attractive to the young people, especially the younger girls. That meant no good to our community.

This year there seemed to be much more drinking among the men, and women than in previous years. Why? I don't know unless it is that the young people want to show their independence, that they can do what other people are doing, their dare-devilness.

My people, the Tsimsheans people do not have enough of the Grace of God in their hearts to withstand severe testing. Let me qualify before I go farther; many of the people are in this class. I am happy in the belief that there are a few who will stand up in severe testing, but they are the exception rather than the general rule.

And so we have a most difficult work to do here, but we are going to continue to sow the seed. I feel the Lord did not send me here to reap: He sent me to sow, and by His Grace I am going to be more industrious as the days go by. "Many are called but few are chosen." I thank God for those few, and take courage to go forth to increase the number. PRAY FOR US.